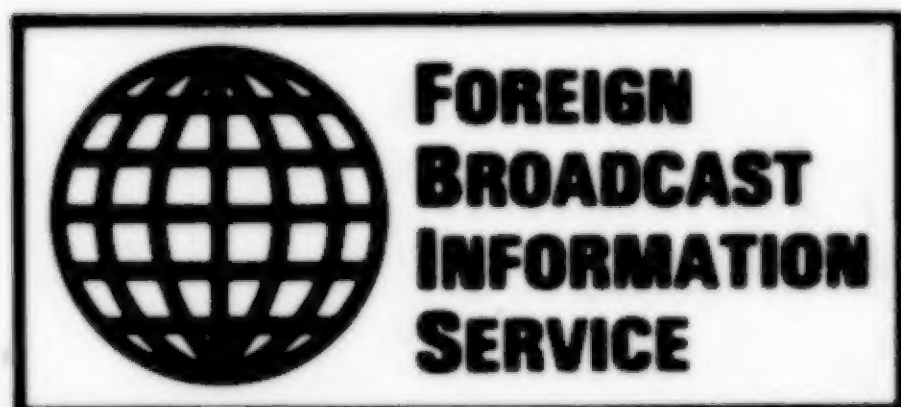




Daily Report

East Asia

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Japan

Caution Remains on Early End to GATT Talks

OW2304050392 Tokyo KYODO in English 0338 GMT
23 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 23 KYODO—Japanese Government officials said Thursday they remain cautious about an early conclusion to stalled world trade talks despite an agreement by the United States and the European Community (EC) to wrap them up by the end of June.

U.S. President George Bush and European Community Commission President Jacques Delors agreed at a meeting Wednesday in Washington that they want a satisfactory agreement in the Uruguay Round of global trade talks by the end of June, before the July summit meeting of the seven major industrial nations.

The Uruguay Round is sponsored by the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

An official at the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries voiced skepticism that the Bush-Delors meeting set the stage for Washington and Brussels to break a deadlock in the trade talks, which have been stalled largely over a U.S.-EC dispute over farm subsidies.

"There is a shade of politics to keep the negotiations going on," the official said, referring to the U.S.-EC summit talks that ended without a compromise on farm subsidies.

"On the part of the United States, it (the June target) appears aimed at appealing to Americans for efforts to reach an agreement in an election year," the official said.

A Foreign Ministry official said he is doubtful about the end of June deadline, saying the trade talks cover not only agriculture but also 14 other sectors of trade, including services.

"The conflict between the United States and the EC is not only over agriculture but also over services. It's quite doubtful that they can resolve their differences only in one or two months," the official said.

But the official said "new ideas" reportedly swapped between Bush and Delors on how to conclude the trade talks might push Japan into a difficult position over its ban on rice imports.

Japan has insisted it should be allowed to keep the rice import ban despite a draft proposal for replacing non-tariff barriers such as import bans with tariffs now being discussed in the trade talks.

If the ideas discussed in Washington back the tariff proposal, Japan would be left in a more difficult position, the official said.

Spokesman Reacts to 'Deadlock'

OW2304055792 Tokyo KYODO in English 0531 GMT
23 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 23 KYODO—Top government spokesman Koichi Kato said Thursday that the July summit of leaders of seven advanced nations in Munich will provide the next opportunity for major progress in the stalled Uruguay Round talks on global trade.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Kato made the comment after U.S. President George Bush and European Community leaders failed to break a deadlock over agricultural trade in their meeting in Washington on Wednesday.

"It appears that the breakthrough that had been hoped for did not happen," Kato told a news conference.

He said he expected various developments to take place before July, when leaders of the United States, Japan, Germany, France, Britain, Italy, and Canada gather in Munich for their annual economic summit.

EC Commission President Jacques Delors said after Wednesday's meeting with Bush that he hopes concrete advances will be made by the end of June.

Kato said that Japan will continue to work for an early resolution of the Uruguay Round, though he said Japan has not altered its opposition to allowing rice imports.

An official at the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries expressed doubt about whether the Bush-Delors meeting set the stage for Washington and Brussels to break the deadlock in the trade talks, which have been stalled largely over a U.S.-EC dispute over farm subsidies.

He implied that there could be political reasons for keeping the negotiations going. He added, "on the part of the United States, it (the June target) appears aimed at appealing to Americans for efforts to reach an agreement in an election year."

A Foreign Ministry official was dubious about whether the June deadline could be met, saying the trade talks cover not only agriculture but also 14 other sectors of trade, including services.

"The conflict between the United States and the EC is not only over agriculture but also over services. It's quite doubtful that they can resolve their differences only in one or two months," the official said.

But he said "new ideas" reportedly discussed by Bush and Delors on how to conclude the trade talks might push Japan into a difficult position over its ban on rice imports.

Japan has insisted it should be allowed to keep the rice import ban despite a draft proposal now being discussed in the trade talks to replace such bans with tariffs.

If the ideas discussed in Washington support the tariff proposal, Japan would be left in a more difficult position, the official said.

The Uruguay Round, being held under the auspices of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, began in 1986 and had been due to be completed last December.

Official Welcomes 'New Ideas'

OW2304060592 Tokyo KYODO in English 0534 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 23 KYODO—A senior official of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) on Thursday welcomed "new ideas" for trade reportedly proposed at the U.S.-European Community (EC) summit held in Washington overnight.

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Japan must first find out what the ideas specifically are but the existence of new proposals means efforts to solve the long-stalled Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks are still alive.

In Washington, EC Commission President Jacques Delors hoped that some "concrete progress" in the trade talks held under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) will be made by the end of June but details of the new proposal were not given.

Together with Delors, Portuguese Prime Minister Anibal Cavaco Silva, who is currently the president of the EC, discussed the trade deadlock with U.S. President George Bush.

The MITI official said he hopes Japan will be able to somehow coordinate with the two parties on the new ideas at the weekend meeting in Japan of top trade officials from the United States, Canada, the EC, and Japan.

The official predicted the talks may see a major breakthrough before the July summit in Munich of leaders of the Group of Seven economic powers.

Early End of Uruguay Round Doubted

OW2304080992 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0300 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] EC Chairman Jacques Delors, in a news conference in the United States after his meeting with President Bush on 22 April, referred to the Uruguay Round of agricultural talks and said that the talks would be concluded by the end of June, before the Munich summit, indicating an optimistic view on the development of the Uruguay Round of talks. Chairman Delors and Prime Minister Cavaco de Silva of Portugal, who preside at EC meetings, discussed the early conclusion of the Uruguay Round of talks for about two hours with President Bush at the White House on 22 April. During the meeting, each side made new proposals and agreed to conduct reciprocal examinations; contents of the new proposals have not yet been disclosed. While admitting that there were still large gaps between the EC and the United States on measures to conclude the Uruguay Round of talks, Chairman Delors said it would be possible to conclude the talks by the end of June, prior to G-7

summit talks scheduled for July in Munich, Germany, expressing an optimistic view on the future development of the agricultural talks. At the same time, he said that the United States should also pay a price, as the EC would, again stressing the need for the United States to compromise in order to reach an agreement. Meanwhile, President Bush limited himself to saying that the United States hoped to deepen the negotiations, based on proposals made by the EC and the United States to realize the early conclusion of the Uruguay Round of talks.

Touching on the results of the EC-U.S. talks in a news conference this morning, Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Kato said that the Japanese Government did not have an optimistic view on the possibility of concluding the Uruguay Round of talks before the summit talks in July. He added that no indications were made at the EC-U.S. talks on an opening of the way for conclusion of the Uruguay Round. They just agreed that they would make efforts for conclusion of the talks before the Munich Summit, and the problems concerning the agricultural issue were left unsolved. Thus no progress has been made in the EC-U.S. talks, Kato said. Moreover, he said that the participating nations in the ongoing Uruguay Round in Geneva seemed to be having a hard time promoting smooth negotiations. In particular, he said that negotiations between the United States and the EC on the agricultural issue have made no progress, thus it would be difficult for them to reach an agreement. In this way, Kato expressed a negative view on the possibility of concluding the Uruguay Round before the Munich Summit. Moreover, referring to the Japanese Government's future approach to the Uruguay Round, Kato said that although Japan would cooperate in concluding the talks at an early date, it would not accept tariffication on rice, reiterating Japan's past stand.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries also said that in the aforementioned news conference, Chairman Delors merely indicated his expectations for the Uruguay Round. Judging from progress in negotiations, it is still unclear whether the Uruguay Round of talks will be concluded before the Munich Summit in July, the ministry said. In order to avoid a situation in which each nation loses interest in the Uruguay Round, participating nations should not charge only the United States and the EC with the progress of the Uruguay Round. Rather, they should urgently hold multilateral negotiations and promote substantial talks on such issues as revising the draft agreement. The ministry intends to press the EC secretariat and other nations concerned to promote substantial negotiations.

Official: G-7 Likely To Agree on Higher Yen

OW2304134892 Tokyo KYODO in English 1157 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 23 KYODO—Financial officials from the Group of Seven (G-7) industrial nations are likely to agree at their meeting in Washington Sunday

that the yen's value should be higher, a high-ranking Ministry of Finance (MOF) official said Thursday.

"I believe all the G-7 nations hope the yen will become stronger, because they do not want the Japanese trade surplus to increase further," he said.

The finance ministers and central bank governors from the United States, Canada, Italy, Germany, France, Britain, and Japan agreed to accept the yen's appreciation at their last meeting in January. But the yen has actually kept falling after that.

The ministry official said the G-7 financial authorities will reaffirm their cooperation on the issue again.

Another ministry official said, however, that there is a little possibility of concerted intervention by the monetary authorities to lead the yen higher, because its exchange rate has been somewhat stable recently.

Noting that the yen has not declined sharply despite drastic falls in the Japanese stock market, the official said the strength of the Japanese economy is still trusted. When stock prices recover the yen will start rising, he said.

Foreign Business Executives Urge More Imports

OW2304112092 Tokyo KYODO in English 0828 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 23 KYODO—Foreign business executives, frustrated with the persistent trade imbalance with Japan, called Thursday for more government measures encouraging Japanese companies to increase their imports.

In a meeting on import promotion organized by the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI), the business officials from the United States, Europe, and other major countries appreciated the government's series of efforts to cap the resurging trade surplus.

But nevertheless, they called for the government to expand existing tax and financial incentive programs and voiced complaints about the country's inferior import-related infrastructure, which they see as an obstacle to penetrating the Japanese market, a ministry official said.

The meeting was the first for the sub-group of a government panel, the Import Board, which was established in August 1990 in line with an agreement on the Japan-U.S. Structural Impediments Initiative (SII) talks.

The gathering was timed to coincide with another import-promotion conference earlier in the day, where MITI Chief Kozo Watanabe asked representatives from about 180 major companies to redouble their effort to trim Japan's trade surplus, which is apparently heading for a new record high in fiscal 1991.

While lauding a MITI program called the Business Global Partnership (BGP) aimed at convincing companies into buying more imports, some foreign members

requested that the government follow up on the program's achievements to make them more visible.

They also urged for the extension and expansion of MITI's tax scheme, which provides tax incentives for companies steadily increasing their purchases of foreign goods.

The eight foreigners also complained that the Japanese transportation system is equipped for moving raw materials, but not for finished products.

They also requested more favorable lending terms for foreign investors using the governmental Japan Development Bank.

Firms Asked To Import More To Cut Trade Gap

OW2304053492 Tokyo KYODO in English 0309 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 23 KYODO—The Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) asked major Japanese companies Thursday to import more to slim Japan's trade surplus, which is likely to reach a record level this year.

Speaking at a meeting with executives from 177 major firms, MITI chief Kozo Watanabe renewed a request for increased cooperation with the ministry's import-promotion policy, a ministry official said.

"We understand that industry is in a difficult situation (due to the economic slump) but we want you to redouble efforts to increase imports to ensure friendly business partnerships with the international community," Watanabe was quoted as saying.

Specifically, he asked the business leaders to compile and steadily implement "voluntary action programs" on imports over the next few years.

He also asked for more active use of MITI's import-promotion tax system, which provides tax incentives for companies whose imports rise more than 10 percent.

Watanabe singled out semiconductors, autos, machine tools, paper, and glass as sectors where it is particularly important to try to satisfy Washington and other trading partners unhappy with what they perceive as limited access to the Japanese market.

The annual meeting, the ninth since the first in 1985, came as Japan's trade imbalance is sure to top 110 billion dollars in fiscal 1991, the highest on record, as imports were depressed by slumping domestic demand.

The ministry will make the same request to 158 other major firms nationwide via its nine regional bureaus.

The 335 concerns, covering a wide range of sectors from automakers to retailers to traders, account for around 60 percent of Japan's total imports.

In response to Watanabe's request, business leaders, while promising more efforts, called for the government

to increase economy-boosting measures and the expansion of MITI's import-related tax incentive program, which was introduced in 1990.

Watanabe responded that the government will "do its best" to bring the economy back to an expansionary path and to carry out its import-expansion steps, including the tax incentive program and the planned improvement of import-linked infrastructure like airports and ports.

Hayami Urges Firms To End Market-Share War

OW2304142392 Tokyo KYODO in English 0934 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 23 KYODO—The chairman of the Japanese Association of Corporate Executives (Keizai Doyukai) on Thursday urged Japanese industries to shift their emphasis from a quest for larger market shares to "creative competition" to contribute to international harmony.

Masaru Hayami told a general meeting of the big-business group that Japanese companies need to reform their management philosophies that have led to mass marketing at thin profit margins around the world.

He said reform is necessary following the collapse of the so-called "bubble economy" and growing Western criticisms of Japanese marketing strategies.

The collapse of the "bubble economy," which was characterized by inflated stock and real estate values and financed much of Japan's recent industrial expansion, gives Japanese industries a good opportunity to reform their strategies, Hayami said.

Hayami was the third top business leader to call for a restructuring of Japanese industry, after Gaishi Hiraiwa, chairman of the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren), and Sony Corp. Chairman Akio Morita.

Auto Executive Doubtful on Proposed U.S. Talks

OW2304134092 Tokyo KYODO in English 1133 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 23 KYODO—The chairman of the Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association expressed doubts Thursday about a proposal to hold a top-level conference of Japanese and U.S. automobile manufacturers in May or June.

Yutaka Kume, who is also president of Nissan Motor Co., told reporters that both sides have yet to agree on a proper agenda for the conference.

U.S. automobile industry leaders have proposed the conference to discuss auto trade issues.

Kume said that the conference, if held early, could be risky, because they could involve the whole Japan-U.S. trade problems.

He said working-level officials of Japan and U.S. auto-makers should meet, possibly in July, to make arrangements for the conference.

Auto officials from the two countries last met in Tokyo during the visit by U.S. President George Bush in January, but U.S. officials were reportedly dissatisfied with the lack of concrete results at the talks.

Japanese automakers have been reluctant to hold more talks, since the U.S. industry is likely to demand further restraints on Japanese car production and marketing, industry sources said.

Canada Urged To Observe Free Trade Principles

OW2304142492 Tokyo KYODO in English 0837 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 23 KYODO—Japan requested Canada Thursday to ensure observation of General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) free trade rules as one of three principles to be followed in setting up a regional free trade agreement, government officials said.

Japan proposed the principles at a meeting of the 10th Japan-Canada joint economic committee, saying it will also offer the proposal to the United States and Mexico, the officials said.

Canada, the U.S., and Mexico are negotiating to create a North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

The first of the three principles is to secure consistency between a regional treaty and GATT rules to avoid discriminatory measures against nonmembers of the regional trade pact, according to the officials.

The other principles are not to beef up import barriers against the products of third countries, and to make efforts to have the NAFTA contribute to global trade expansion, they said.

Racism Charges Denied in Case of U.S. Wrestler

OW2304053292 Tokyo KYODO in English 0450 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 23 KYODO—Japan's top government spokesman Thursday refuted charges that the sumo world has denied American wrestler Konishiki a promotion to the top rank because of racism.

"The sumo world is based entirely on ability. It is unacceptable for racism to play a role in deciding who becomes yokozuna [grand champion] and I believe there is no racism," Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Kato said at a news conference.

Kato urged Japan Sumo Association officials to take steps to make sure this is clearly understood by the American people.

The spokesman was responding to news reports quoting Hawaiian-born ozeki [champion] Konishiki as saying he would have achieved the highest rank of yokozuna had he been Japanese.

"Strictly speaking, this is racism," Konishiki said in a NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN article Monday. A similar report appeared in THE NEW YORK TIMES on Wednesday.

Konishiki's stablemaster said Konishiki has denied making the comment to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

Debate over promoting Konishiki to the top rank has crowded the nation's sports pages since March, when Konishiki won his third championship.

The Japan Sumo Association recommends that wrestlers, who win two emperor's cups or register comparable record, be considered for promotion to yokozuna.

The association has interpreted the guidelines loosely in recent years.

The discussion also spilled over into the House of Councillors Thursday as an opposition party member made an appeal not to let sumo become a new arena of bilateral friction.

"Sumo is the only pro sport in which the prime minister's cup is given out," said Akira Kuroyanagi, a member of Komeito, at a meeting of the upper house's Foreign Affairs Committee.

The opposition legislator then asked for a reaction from Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe, saying "Americans are very sensitive to the issue of racism and I would like to ask that this problem develop no further."

Watanabe replied that he had not seen the articles, but regretted that "a minor thing caused misunderstanding and developed into a clamor."

"We need to take full care not to let this become the case," said Watanabe.

Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa told reporters he does not believe the association has discriminated against Konishiki in not yet promoting him to the Yokozuna rank.

Miyazawa said, "I don't know the news stories in detail... but I don't think there is discrimination (in the sumo world)."

He said he hopes there will be more yokozuna as there is currently only one.

Tokyo To Provide \$1.5 Billion in Aid to Russia

OW2304125192 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1000 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] With regard to the \$24 billion in financial assistance that seven industrial nations are considering extending to Russia, it has been confirmed that Japan will contribute \$1.5 billion in direct bilateral assistance.

Regarding the assistance for Russia by the Group of Seven industrial nations, agreement has been reached to provide \$6 billion in funds to stabilize the Russian currency—the ruble—and \$18 billion in funds to fill deficits in the international balance of payments. Agreement also has been reached to raise \$11 billion in bilateral assistance for improving the international payment position. Broken down by country, Germany's share is the largest at \$3 billion, the U.S. share is \$2.5 billion, Italy's \$2 billion, Japan's \$1.5 billion, the UK's \$1 billion, and France and Canada, \$0.5 billion each.

As for the remaining \$7 billion, \$4.5 billion will be provided by the IMF and the World Bank, and \$2.5 billion in assistance will be effected by continuing the deferment of debts owed to various countries.

Of the \$1.5 billion to be borne by Japan, Japan is considering assigning to it part of the \$2.6 billion pledged so far to Russia in emergency aid in foodstuffs and other supplies.

The G-7 nations will confirm this framework of assistance at the G-7 meeting in Washington on 26 April, and will announce this at the industrial nations' summit as their comprehensive assistance plan for Russia.

This means that the framework of immediate assistance for Russia by industrial nations has now been completed. A point to watch for is whether Japan will provide additional assistance in line with progress made in negotiations on settling the northern territories issue.

Military Officer Exchanges With Russia Viewed

OW2304104992 Tokyo KYODO in English 1028 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 23 KYODO—Japan is ready to start a military officer exchange program between its Self-Defense Forces (SDF) and the Russian Armed Forces, government sources said Thursday.

Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe, during his scheduled visit to Moscow in late April, will probably propose the exchange program and invite former Soviet military officers to Japan, the sources said.

Watanabe is scheduled to arrive in Moscow on April 29 and meet Russian President Boris Yeltsin, Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, and other leaders around May 1.

Japan has decided to promote such exchanges as a confidence-building measure between the two nations, the sources said.

The program would be the first of its kind between Japan and Russia.

Japanese Defense Agency sources, however, said the exchange program should be expanded cautiously, on the grounds that the former Soviet military still maintains

influential strength in the Russian Far East region, including four Russian-held islands off Hokkaido that are claimed by Japan.

Last October, former Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama proposed to his Soviet counterpart Boris Pankin in Moscow that meetings be held whenever necessary on security by officials from the departments of foreign affairs and defense.

The foreign ministers agreed to start negotiations on a treaty aimed at preventing maritime incidents.

Final Decision on Emperor's PRC Trip Not Made

OW2304105492 Tokyo KYODO in English 1000 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 23 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa said Thursday more time is necessary before a final decision is made on Emperor Akihito's visit to China.

An imperial trip to China this year on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the normalization of relations between China and Japan would be opportune, Miyazawa said.

However, he added that it is important that such a trip be made with the blessing of Japanese people.

The government will ask the emperor to visit China when public opinion favoring his trip becomes "ripe," Miyazawa said at a meeting with reporters at the prime minister's official residence.

Chinese Communist Party leader Jiang Zemin invited the emperor to visit Beijing when he met with the emperor early this month in Tokyo.

The emperor's visit to China is regarded as a symbol of friendly ties between China and Japan on the occasion of the anniversary of the 1972 normalization of bilateral relations.

Japan has been cautious about a trip to China by Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko because of China's proclamation in February of ownership of the territorial waters that include the Senkaku Islands, claimed also by Japan as well as by Taiwan.

There have also been moves in China to demand compensation for damage inflicted by Japan before and during World War II. The Chinese Government renounced claims for reparation before the normalization of bilateral ties.

Miyazawa told reporters the government and the Liberal Democratic Party will study how the Japanese people think about the emperor's visit to China.

Seven first-term LDP members of the House of Representatives met with Secretary General Tamisuke Watanuki at LDP Headquarters. They later said that "under the present circumstances" a decision on the

emperor's trip should not be made when the island and compensation issues remain unsettled.

Watanuki was quoted as saying that he agreed with them and that similar feelings have been aired in the party's Executive Council.

Six Chinese Indicted for Illegal Entry

OW2304135992 Tokyo KYODO in English 1326 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 23 KYODO—Prosecutors indicted six Chinese boat people Thursday on charges of illegal entry to Japan.

Charged were Chen Yi Guang, 39, a former fisherman from Changlexian, Fujian Province, and five others. They were among eight boat people who washed up on Hachijo island after their rubber dinghies capsized off the island.

The six indicted persons were among a group of 58 men and women who left Fujian on March 23 aboard a Taiwanese boat, according to an earlier police investigation.

A seventh man, who was operating one of the capsized dinghies, will not be indicted because he did not intend to stay in Japan.

When the vessel approached the island, 12 of the Chinese were put aboard the rubber dinghies. The lifeboats capsized and four of the Chinese drowned. One of the eight who were washed ashore died shortly after landing.

The Tokyo Metropolitan Police Department earlier said the seven survivors told police investigators that there are four groups of organized smugglers in Fujian Province who deal with would-be illegal immigrants to Japan.

Police investigators said they learned from the seven that they were allowed to board the Taiwanese boat after they had promised to pay 2.5 million to 2.75 million yen per person to the smugglers.

The sum is equivalent to 20 years' pay of Chinese workers in the province, the investigators quoted the seven as saying.

Under the contract with smugglers, each of the seven paid 4,000 yuan or about 100,000 yen to the smugglers as an initial payment, and their families at home would pay the remaining sum upon receiving letters from Japan confirming their safe arrival, police said.

The deal called for the families to pay the balance by borrowing from a local private financing cooperative, police said.

Chen was quoted by the investigators as saying, "although we could manage to earn our food in China, we were envious of other households who were better off with such items as color television sets bought with money sent from their family members working in Japan."

CSFR President Havel Continues Visit

Meets With Emperor Akihito

OW2304055392 Tokyo KYODO in English 0436 GMT
23 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 23 KYODO—Czechoslovak President Vaclav Havel and his wife Olga had an audience with Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko on Thursday morning at the Akasaka Palace.

Emperor Akihito chatted with Havel for 20 minutes and said he was glad that the democratic revolution in Czechoslovakia had succeeded without bloodshed, imperial household agency officials said.

Havel, the first president of Czechoslovakia to visit Japan, replied that his nation still faces many political and economic difficulties stemming from the long period of communist rule.

The playwright-turned president organized Civic Forum, a democratic organization, in 1989 and led the "velvet revolution," which ousted then-president Gustav Husak and put an end to the communist system. He became interim president in a Federal Assembly election in December 1989 and was reelected in a free poll in July 1990.

Offered Economic, Environment Aid

OW2304133292 Tokyo KYODO in English 1228 GMT
23 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 23 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa pledged to Czechoslovakian President Vaclav Havel Thursday to increase economic and environmental cooperation, but the two countries still differ over an investment agreement, a Foreign Ministry official said.

In the 90-minute meeting at the Akasaka State Guesthouse, Havel pledged to continue supporting Japan's bid for observer status at the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), the official said.

Havel, who currently chairs the CSCE, said the issue would be given further consideration at a meeting in July.

Japan will make funds available to Czechoslovakia, accept technical trainees to assist development of small- and medium-sized enterprises, and will also dispatch a government environmental mission, Miyazawa was quoted as saying.

Miyazawa also agreed to consider establishing direct air links, but cautioned it may be difficult due to congestion at Narita airport, Japan's main international airport in the Tokyo area, the official said.

Miyazawa made the offers in response to requests from Havel, the first Czechoslovakian president to visit Japan since 1970.

Assistance in helping Czechoslovakia's reforms aimed at establishing a market economy will be beneficial to the entire world, Havel was quoted saying.

Havel noted that successful development of small- and medium-sized industries will be important to establishing a market economy, the official said.

Havel also said that trade relations are slow to develop and hoped the momentum will pick up after a trade agreement is inked Friday, the official said.

Japan imported some 126 million dollars worth of Czechoslovakian goods in 1991 and exported some 69 million dollars worth to that country.

The ministry official said the two leaders remained apart, however, over an investment treaty.

The Czechoslovakian president told Miyazawa that he hoped for an early agreement. Japan has only three direct investments in Czechoslovakia.

Miyazawa said Japan has no objection to entering an agreement, but that it is unhappy about receiving less favorable treatment than members of the European Community, the official said.

The two leaders also agreed to boost cultural exchanges, and Miyazawa also offered 46 million yen in audiovisual materials to a Czechoslovakian university.

Havel arrived Wednesday on a five-day visit, his first to Japan since assuming the presidency in December 1989.

He is accompanied by his wife Olga and Foreign Trade Minister Jozef Baksay.

Stresses Intellectuals' Roles

OW2304134692 Tokyo KYODO in English 1127 GMT
23 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 23 KYODO—Visiting Czechoslovakian President Vaclav Havel said Thursday intellectuals can blow a fresh breeze into politics and give it a "new and post-modern face."

"It seems to me that the world of politics should be widely humanized and spiritualized" by genuine intellectuals, philosophers, and poets, Havel said in a symposium held in Tokyo.

The playwright-turned-president said such people are "duty-bound to stop loathing politics and not to be afraid to enter it and take upon themselves all the risks and requirements which go with it."

Havel is the first Czechoslovakian president to visit Japan since democratic reforms ended communist rule in his country in 1989. He was named president by the parliament in December 1989 and was elected to the post by the federal assembly in July 1990.

Involved in dissident movements since the "Prague spring" of 1968, Havel noted many intellectuals leading

antiestablishment movements assumed the highest political posts in Central and Eastern Europe after totalitarian systems collapsed in 1989.

"In a situation when our countries did not have, and could not have had, any professional democratic politicians to call upon, there simply was no other solution," said Havel, who organized Civic Forum, a democratic organization, and led the "velvet revolution."

He said those intellectuals in the post-communist countries are now facing "historical challenge or a task—a challenge to take a great risk and launch a great adventure."

It is one of the "great paradoxes of the moment" that such political amateurs have to negotiate with experienced politicians in Western countries, Havel said.

He said he believes post-communist countries, too, have "something special to offer to the rest of world" by taking advantage of their experiences under totalitarian regimes, rather than turning to the "developed world with repeated requests for assistance."

"I have said more than once that the decades we spent under the totalitarian regime were not entirely wasted and that they have given us a certain specific spiritual experience which can be drawn on and put to some good use, and which can help improve mankind's knowledge of itself," he said.

"Naturally, philosophers and poets in ministerial chairs will not save the world single-handed," Havel said. "But I do believe that their presence in politics might bring something that present-day politics badly needs."

"That can happen only if they learn to move in politics so as to develop their identity in some special way rather than deny it," he said.

Havel, who is on a five-day visit, said civilization is at a "vital juncture," citing the widening gap between rich and poor, swelling populations, environmental destruction, and nuclear weapons as threats to mankind.

Politicians should be "more committed emotionally not only to their political fate but to that of the world" and "listen more to the voice of their unique, individual conscience, the way poets do," he said.

Tokyo Urged To Censure Burma Rights Abuses

OW2204132892 Tokyo KYODO in English 1202 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 22 KYODO—An international investigative commission on human rights called on the Japanese Government and international organizations Wednesday to take measures against the Myanmar [Burma] military regime to stop human rights abuses.

The nongovernmental commission, organized by six lawyers from Japan, Thailand, and the Philippines,

carried out an investigation from April 4 to 12 in Myanmar near the Thai border on the human rights situation in the area.

At a news conference in Tokyo, they reported on evidence they said they obtained through interviews with some 20 Myanmar citizens forcibly conscripted as porters and with surrendered Myanmar soldiers.

"Under the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC) at present, basic human rights do not exist at all in Myanmar," said Kenshi Nishida, a Japanese member of the commission.

The SLORC is the ruling military junta in Myanmar.

Other commission members are Toru Takahashi, Shogo Watanabe, and Toshitaka Onodera of Japan, Thongbai Thongpao of Thailand, and Solema Jubilan of the Philippines.

The commission members said they have asked the Myanmar Embassy in Tokyo to check if the results obtained from the investigation are true.

They also plan to send the information to the Japanese and other governments in the hope that action will be taken by them.

The commission members said forced labor of citizens, their cruel treatment, as well as attacks, massacres, rape, and plunder directed at minorities in Myanmar are crimes against humanity and civilization.

They said the SLORC's repression has produced many refugees both within Myanmar and other countries. The situation of internal refugees is extreme, with the political and minority refugees together totaling several million, they said.

The commission's report came as Sadako Ogata, the United Nations high commissioner for refugees, requested Japan to exert its influence on Myanmar to help stem the flow of Muslim refugees from that country into Bangladesh. Ogata brought up the issue in a meeting with Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe in Tokyo.

The commission visited some Myanmar towns near the Thai border, including Manaplaw, about 200 kilometers of northeast of Yangon [Rangoon], where the headquarters of the rebel provisional government for democratic forces is located.

It said ordinary citizens such as farmers and laborers have been conscripted without regard to sex or age and sent to the front lines to transport artillery shells, food, and material. The female porters are forced to serve to satisfy the sexual urges of the soldiers, the commission alleged.

The commission also said the SLORC has conducted bombings and other indiscriminate attacks and plunder against minorities, resulting in legions of refugees.

Beginning in early 1990, the SLORC has been pressing people to leave the cities and forcing them to move to

satellite cities that have no water, electricity, or residential facilities, with the number of such people amounting to as high as one million, commission members said.

The SLORC also continues to repress violently the democratic movements, with democratic leaders including Nobel Peace Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi being subjected to long-term house arrest or thrown in prison, the commission said.

To restore human rights and democracy in Myanmar, the commission members said they will request Japan and international organizations to immediately and unconditionally stop economic assistance in progress.

The SLORC is sustained by the recognition of it by the Japanese Government and the resumption of Official Development Assistance, large exports of arms by several countries, notably China, and the investment and economic deals by corporations in Japan and the South-east Asian countries, the lawyers said.

The commission said governments and the United Nations must immediately set to work jointly on mediating a dialogue between the SLORC and the democratic groups for a peaceful transfer of power.

North Korea

World Parties Issue 'Pyongyang Declaration'

SK2204053392 *Pyongyang KCNA in English*
0420 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] Pyongyang April 22 (KCNA)—Leaders and delegates of communist and workers' parties and other political parties aspiring after socialism who came to Pyongyang to participate in the celebrations of the 80th birthday of the great leader President Kim Il-song had multilateral and bilateral contacts while staying in Korea.

Delegates of communist and workers' parties and other political parties aspiring after socialism decided to adopt a Pyongyang Declaration reflecting the firm will to defend and advance the cause of socialism and, to this end, had contacts with other progressive political parties which could not send delegates to Pyongyang.

The Pyongyang Declaration was signed by delegates of 70 parties of the world including 48 party leaders as of April 20, 1992.

Follows the full text of the Pyongyang Declaration titled "Let Us Defend and Advance the Socialist Cause".

The representatives of political parties from different countries of the world who are striving for the victory of socialism publish this Declaration with a firm conviction to defend and advance the socialist cause.

Ours is an era of independence and the socialist cause is a sacred one aimed at realizing the independence of the popular masses.

Socialism suffered a setback in some countries in recent years. As a consequence of this, the imperialists and reactionaries are claiming that socialism has "come to an end." This is nothing but a sophistry to beautify and embellish capitalism and patronize the old order.

The setback of socialism and the revival of capitalism in some countries is causing a great loss to the achievement of socialist cause, but it can never be interpreted as the denial of the superiority of socialism and of the reactionary character of capitalism.

Socialism has long been the ideal of mankind and it represents the future of mankind.

Socialist society is, in essence, a genuine society for the people where the popular masses are the masters of everything and everything serves them.

But the capitalist society is an unfair one where "the rich get ever richer and the poor poorer." In this society money decides everything, exploitation of man by man predominates and a handful of exploiter classes lords it over. It is inevitably accompanied by political non-rights, unemployment, poverty, drugs, crimes and other kinds of all social evils which trample the human dignity underfoot.

Only socialism can eliminate domination, subjugation and social inequality of all manners and ensure the people substantial freedom, equality, true democracy and human rights.

The popular masses have long carried on an arduous struggle for the victory of socialism and shed much blood in this course.

The path of socialism is an untrodden one and, therefore, the advance of socialism is inevitably accompanied by trials and difficulties.

One of the reasons for the unsuccessful construction of socialism in some countries is that they failed to build a social structure conforming to the fundamental requirements of the popular masses and build socialism suited to the demand of the theory of scientific socialism.

The guarantee for the advance of a socialist society lies in that the popular masses become the genuine masters of the society.

Such a society makes a triumphant advance—this is a truth and reality proved by theory and practice.

The parties and progressive mankind aspiring after socialism have drawn a very precious lesson therefrom.

In order to defend and advance the socialist cause individual parties should firmly maintain independence and firmly build up their own forces.

The socialist movement is an independent one. Socialism is carved out and built with a country or national state as a unit. The socialist cause in each country should be fulfilled on the responsibility of the party and people of that country.

Each party should work out lines and policies which tally with the actual situation of the country where it is active and with the demands of its people and implement them by relying on the popular masses.

It should not abandon its revolutionary principles at any time and under any circumstances but uplift the banner of socialism.

The socialist cause is a national one and, at the same time, a common cause of mankind.

All parties should cement the ties of comradely unity, cooperation and solidarity among themselves on the principle of independence and equality.

International solidarity is essential to the struggle for socialism.

Now that the imperialists and reactionaries are attacking socialism and people in an international collusion the parties which are building socialism or aspiring after it should defend and advance socialism on an international scale and strengthen mutual support and solidarity in their efforts for social justice, democracy, the right to existence and peace against imperialist domination, subjugation by capital and neo-colonialism.

This is an international duty incumbent upon all parties and progressive forces for socialism and an undertaking for their own cause.

We will advance under the unfurled banner of socialism in firm unity with all progressive political parties, organizations and peoples of the world who are striving to defend socialism against capitalism and imperialism.

Let us all fight it out to open up the future of mankind with a firm conviction in the cause of socialism.

Final victory is on the part of the people fighting in unity for socialism.

The socialist cause shall not perish.

The Workers' Party of Bangladesh
The Bangladesh National Socialist Party
The Progressive Party of the Working People of Cyprus
The Communist Party of India (Marxist)
The Communist Party of India
The Jordanian Communist Party
The Workers' Party of Korea
The National Socialist Party of Syria in Lebanon
The Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party
The Nepalese Communist Party (United Marxist-Leninist)
The Nepalese Communist Party (United Centre)
The Nepal Workers and Peasants Party
The Nepalese Communist Party (United)
The Sri Lanka Communist Party
The Arab Socialist Ba'ath Party
The Socialist Party of Turkey
The Communist Party of Albania
The Communist Party of Bulgaria

The Bulgarian Communist Party (Marxists)
The Belgian Labour Party
The Britannic Communist Party
The New Communist Party of Great Britain
The Danish Workers' Party, Common Cause
The Communist Forum of Denmark
For Peace and Socialism - The Communist Workers' Party of Finland
The German Communist Party
The Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party
The Communist Party of Ireland
The Movement for Peace and Socialism of Italy
The New Socialist Party of Romania
The Communist Party of Malta
The Norwegian Communist Party
The Polish League of Communists (Proletariat)
The All-Union Bolshevik Communist Party
The Russian Communist Workers' Party
The Russian Socialist Workers' Party
The "Communists League" of Russia
The Spanish People's Communist Party
The Labour Party - Communists of Sweden
The League of Communists - Movement for Yugoslavia
The Communist Party of Argentina
The Barbados Workers' Party
The Communist Party of Venezuela
The New Alternative of Venezuela
The Progressive Labour Party of Bermuda
The Bolivian Communist Party
The Brazilian Communist Party
The Caribbean National Movement
The Communist Party of Chile
The Socialist Party of Chile
The Communist Party of Colombia
The People's Party of Costa Rica
The Dominican Communist Party
The United Left Movement of Dominica
The Dominican Labour Party
The Communist Party of Ecuador
The Moris Bishop Patriotic Movement of Grenada
The Communist Party of Martinique
The Popular Socialist Party of Mexico
The Communist Party of Paraguay
The St. Kitts-Nevis Labour Party
The National Democratic Party of Surinam
The February 18th Movement of Trinidad and Tobago
The Communist Party of the United States of America
The Socialist Workers Party of America
The Workers World Party of the United States
The Popular Liberation Movement of Angola
The South West Africa People's Organisation of Namibia
The South African Communist Party
The People's Unity Party of Tunisia

Paper Highlights Army Loyalty to Party, Leader

*SK2204130092 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1102 GMT 22 Apr 92*

[“Ever Invincible Is our People’s Army Carrying Forward the Tradition of Loyalty to Party and Leader”—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang April 22 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today dedicates a signed article titled “Ever Invincible Is Our People’s Army Carrying Forward the Tradition of Loyalty to Party and Leader” to the 60th anniversary of the founding of the Korean People’s Army (April 25 1932).

Ours is glorious revolutionary armed forces which have established the tradition of loyalty to the leader, the article says:

It quotes the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il as saying “since the dawn of our revolution the Korean Communists have been convinced that they could carve out the thorny revolutionary road only under the leadership of the great Comrade Kim Il-song and have won victories, enduring all ordeals, and live and fought with everlasting, singlehearted loyalty to him, entrusting their destiny entirely to him.”

The article continues:

Our revolutionary armed forces, from their inception, were not mere armed units but were an army of the leader, an army of the revolution, whose revolutionary duty it was to put into effect the leaders idea and leadership. The young communists and the anti-Japanese revolutionary fighters who forced the first ranks of our Army were the first comrades and comrades-in-arms of the respected leader General Kim Il-song and their revolutionary spirit was a death-defying resolution to trust and follow the great general to the end of heaven and earth and firmly safeguard him with arms.

The leader trusted his revolutionary soldiers, and the latter absolutely trusted him and faithfully upheld him with arms. Herein lies the basic source of the start of the Korean revolution from scratch and its victorious advance.

The greatest feat of the first generation of the Army which fought at the dawn of our revolution is that it established the noble tradition of loyalty and the faith that it would certainly emerge victorious when it upholds the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song with loyalty. This tradition of loyalty in the eternal life line of our revolutionary armed forces.

Our revolutionary armed forces are the supreme paragon of loyalty and filial duty with which they have kept their pledge to the great leader and the dear leader with their blood and life. The glorious history of our revolutionary armed forces is an ever-victorious course that can be covered only by a revolutionary army which cherishes loyalty to its leader as its faith. The noble political and ideological traits of the officers and men of our People’s Army originate from the wise

guidance of the great leader and the party devoting everything to the strengthening and development of the revolutionary armed forces.

The great leader laid down the chuche-based idea and theory of army building and has wisely guided the struggle for their implementation and put his heart and soul into consolidating the combat capabilities of our Army in every way.

The source of the mightiness and inexhaustible strength of our People’s Army lies in that it has at its head Comrade Kim Il-song, a legendary hero who founded our revolutionary armed forces, led all forms of revolutionary wars such as guerrilla, regular, and modern warfare to brilliant victory and wrought epoch-making military miracles and the most experienced, great iron-willed brilliant commander who standing in the van of the Army for 60 years, has strengthened and developed our revolutionary armed forces into invincible revolutionary ranks defending the case of the party the cause of socialism.

Our party centre, true to the chuche-based military idea and line of the great leader is wisely guiding the struggle for carrying forward the case of Army building started by him and successfully accomplishing it.

All the questions rising in the building of the Army from the work of intensifying political and ideological education in the Army in each period of the developing revolution to the work of building up a sturdy backbone of the revolution, modernizing the military equipment and developing and enriching the chuche-based military idea, strategy and tactics have been successfully solved under the wise leadership of the respected supreme commander.

The officers and men of the Peoples Army are firmly convinced that their worthy life and happiness, victory and glory are promised when they follow the leadership of respected Comrade Kim Chong-il, the supreme commander.

The leader and the Army are united in a great internal whole in our country, the article noted, and stressed:

To always remain faithful to dear Comrade Kim Chong-il, the supreme commander of the revolutionary armed forces and iron-willed brilliant commander, is the unswerving faith and will of the officers and men of the People’s Army. They remain faithful to the cause of the supreme commander, determined to creditably implement the slogan of the party “Let us further glorify our-style socialism with the might of single-hearted unity”.

South Korea

JNCC Chief Urges Inter-Korean Inspections

*SK2304083992 Seoul YONHAP in English
0818 GMT 23 Apr 92*

[Text] Seoul, April 23 (YONHAP)—North Korea should accept both international and South Korean inspections of its nuclear capability, Kong No-myong, the South

Korean-side chairman of the Joint Nuclear Control Commission (JNCC), told reporters Thursday.

"Mutual inspections between South and North Korea would be more effective than an inspection by the International Atomic Energy Agency," Kong said, asked to comment on reports that the Seoul government would give more emphasis on IAEA inspection of North Korea than mutual inspections.

"We will make the best efforts to work out an inspection formula by Mid-May to conduct mutual inspections by June as South and North Korea agreed at the time of launching the JNCC on March 19," he said.

The IAEA was authorized to conduct a special inspection into North Korea in a board of governors' meeting in February, but several steps should be taken to implement the inspection practically, because a special inspection calls for the approval of the country in question, he said.

The senior diplomat, who is heading the Foreign Ministry's Institute of Foreign Affairs and National Security, said the issue of mutual inspection was not confined to the JNCC but was related to the overall South-North Korean relations.

He noted that U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Solomon had recently stated that the level of U.S.-North Korean contact would not be upgraded from the current counselor-level unless the north underwent an IAEA inspection and carried out mutual inspections with South Korea.

"Our government's position is that the joint declaration on a nuclear-free Korean peninsula which was signed by the heads of both Koreas should be put into practice without fail," Kong said.

DPRK Urged To Cancel Pan-National Rally

*SK2304035592 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network
in Korean 0300 GMT 23 Apr 92*

[Text] North and South Korea today are discussing how to implement the North-South basic agreement's provisions on reconciliation at a third meeting of the Political Subcommittee of the high-level talks in Panmunjom. In today's talks, our side presented a supplementary agreement that includes five provisions on North-South recognition of each other's system and noninterference in each other's internal affairs, an end to slandering each other, a ban on trying to destroy and overthrow each other's system, the turning of the armistice into a state of peace, and cooperation in the international community. Our side proposed that the supplementary agreement specifically stipulate that special relations temporarily prevail between North and South Korea. Our side also proposed that the North and South discuss and reach agreement on one issue at a time.

Our side strongly urged the North side to immediately stop carrying out its plan to hold a pan-national rally on and around 15 August and to disband the Pan-National

Alliance for National Reunification, saying that such a meeting is an illegal act that runs counter to the North-South agreement.

Election Worker Admits Ballot-Box Stuffing

*SK2304074592 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES
in English 23 Apr 92 p 3*

[Text] Chilgok, Kyongsangbuk-to- -An administration worker of the township office here has confessed to illegally inserting a bundle of ballots for the ruling party candidate in the March 24 general elections.

Yi Su-yon, 46, assistant chief for general affairs, admitted that deputy township chief Pae Sam-kon, 48, ordered him to deposit 89 ballots supporting Chang Yong-chol of the Democratic Liberty Party [DLP].

Pae was summoned yesterday in connection with the cast and denied any involvement in the vote rigging, police said. If Pae's involvement is confirmed, both he and Yi will be arrested for violating the election law.

Yi's confession was made in the process of an official investigation following allegations by opposition Democratic Party [DP] candidate To Ho-ki that there were rampant irregularities in the electoral district.

To lost to Chang by a margin of 33,656 votes. To and Chang were the only candidates in the district.

Kim Tae-chung Challenged for DP Nomination

*SK2304074892 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD
in English 23 Apr 92 p 2*

[Text] The main opposition Democratic Party [DP] has also been locked in a presidential nomination contest with the party's two main factions split over the timing of the nomination convention and other matters.

Yi Ki-taek, co-chairman, and lawmaker-elected Han Yong-su would challenge the powerful another co-chairman, Kim Tae-chung, in the presidential nomination convention.

Yi, who returned Monday from a 16-day trip to the United States, plans to announce his candidacy for the party's presidential nomination soon. Han has already done so.

Yi, who played a role in the student uprising on April 19, 1960, says it is the time for young Turks, indicating that Kim will have to retire from politics.

The 56-year-old lawmaker from Pusan insists that Koreans are fed up with establishment politics and want old-fashioned politicians like Kim to disappear from the political scene.

Han, 57, a native of Sosan-Taeon in Chungchongnam-to, also describes himself as a reformer and advocates a generational change in politics.

Besides, Reps. Chong Tae-chol and Yi Chol, both reform-minded and well-known nationally, are said to be considering challenging Kim to become their party's presidential contender. They are in their 40s.

However, few in the DP believe that Kim would fail to get the nomination since his faction accounts for more than 60 percent of the deputies to the party convention.

Party sources said Yi Ki-taek, Han and all others seem anxious to fill the party's leadership vacuum after Kim Tae-chung goes.

Kim promised that he would no longer run for the nation's highest elected office should he lose in the coming December presidential race. He already failed twice in his presidential bid.

Meanwhile, local chapter heads in the Kyongsang region, all supporters of Yi Ki-taek, last week called on Kim to retire from politics if he fails in the presidential election.

They held a series of meetings on their own. Some of them issued a statement to that effect.

Yi's supporters based in Taegu and neighboring Kyongsang provinces resolved to make a concerted effort to force Kim to give up his party's control in case he loses in the presidential vote.

In the March 24 parliamentary elections, the Democratic Party gained none of the parliamentary seats up for grabs in the Kyongsang region, reflecting the low popularity of Kim Tae-chung in the region.

The present DP is a product of a merger between the New Democratic Party led Kim and the Democratic Party headed by Yi.

The two factions are also divided as to the timing of the national convention.

The mainstream faction led by Kim insists on a May convention. The ruling Democratic Liberal Party will hold its national nomination convention May 19.

Rep. Cho Sung-hyong, chief of staff for Kim Tae-chung, pointed to the party's constitution which stipulates that the party hold the convention in May biennially.

"There is no reason to postpone the important event," said Cho. "Delaying the nomination convention would generate misunderstanding from the public that our party is engaged in serious factional strife."

He said the party, centered around its presidential nominee, should launch a spirited political offensive in the new National Assembly. The 14th parliament begins its four-year-term late next month.

But Yi's followers oppose holding the convention next month, which they say is too early.

"Above all, the party will have to concentrate its efforts on preparations for the coming parliamentary session," said Chang Ki-uk, a lawyer-turned lawmaker.

He alleged that if the party selects a presidential candidate next month, it has to stage a "war of attrition" for more than six months. The presidential election is to be held in December.

"Such a long-term race would certainly deepen popular distrust in politics," Chang claimed. He belongs to Yi's faction.

The two factions also are at logger-heads over whether Kim should give up his party post if he is picked as the party's presidential nominee.

Yi's faction demands that Kim hand over the party's control to Yi in order to win the presidential election.

They reasoned that the "power sharing" would help remove the party's bad image as a "regional party" and draw many votes from Kyongsang residents.

'Three Kims' Regional Power Bases 'Eroding'

SK2304075092 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES
in English 23 Apr 92 p 6

[Third installment in a three-part series of articles on Korea's political development by Yang Song-chol]

[Text] Thirdly, the so-called three regional power bases held by three Kims [Kim Yong-sam, Kim Tae-chung, Kim Chong-pil] are eroding and shrinking. Such signs are, not only an unmistakable, but positive step toward South Korea's democratization. In the 13th National Assembly election, Kim Yong-sam controlled the South Kyongsang Province, but in this election his power base was confined primarily to the Pusan area. Kim Chong-pil's Chungchong power base, too, has weakened precipitously. the former DJP's [Democratic Justice Party] political strongholds in Taegu and the North Kyongsang Province were also challenged by Chong Chu-yong's newly formed UNP [Unification National Party], which gained four seats. Likewise, Kim Tae-chung's party, which captured all the National Assembly seats in the Cholla provinces last election, lost two seats to the DLP [Democratic Liberal Party] in this election. Moreover, the losers in the Cholla provinces received substantially more votes on the average this time than in the previous election. Most importantly, the UNP, unlike the existing parties' regional identities, has clearly demonstrated its national appeal. Capturing 24 seats, excluding 7 national constituency seats, the UNP has demonstrated its viability as a national party except in the Cholla provinces.

Fourthly, as noted in the above, the primary focus of the Korean electorate is shifting. Once vague and often hyperbolic peace and unification issues are being replaced by more concrete and down-to-earth issues dealing with prosperity and let-us-clean-up-our-own-house-first matters. The demise of the communist regimes in the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, which led to South Korea's normalization of

relations with them and her deepening relations with China, has considerably dampened the once powerful security issues in the political arena and put them on the backburner. Euphoria-turned disphoria in post-united Germany also put a damper on the heated Korean unification debate and aspiration. Few expected the German integration process to be painless. Still, the daily observation of the post-united German integration process has made the Korean people and the government more realistic and cautious about pursuing reunification.

Above all, North Korea has become man economic basket case and an international pariah amid these seismic political changes. Kim Il-song and Kim Chong-il are still celebrating their birthdays with pomp and fanfare, but their once familiar foreign communist guests are long gone. And ironically their empty seats are now filled by luminaries from capitalist and imperialist "enemy" countries, including Shin Kanemaru, Chong Chu-yong, Kim U-chung, Rev. Mun Son-myong and Rev. Billy Graham. Old friends and new luminaries cannot, however, save Kim Il-song's "revolutionary" regime in the long run. This is, for certain, symbolic. If the communist ideologues have failed to save the North Korean paradise of the "Great Leader" and the "Dear Leader," neither the business men nor the religious men from the capitalist and "imperialist" world would be able to do so.

No, too, is suffering from the success of his policy of liberalization, democratization moves and Nordpolitik at home and abroad. His substantial policy accomplishments notwithstanding, the public largely perceives him as drifts and weak. What is worse, during his tenure he has aggravated the woes of the people's daily economic life—high inflation, high wages, high rent and real estate prices, let alone high trade deficits and foreign debts. Now his Nordpolitik has almost run its full course, except for final negotiations with China. Of course, North Korea stands in the way, but No will have difficulty resolving this issue once and for all while he is in power.

Have no doubt that the security issue will be important in Korea and in Asia, since the Cold War is not yet over, especially in the Korean peninsula. The Asian Communists persist in China, Vietnam and North Korea, and the Communist-led insurgencies and civil strifes in Afghanistan, Cambodia and the Philippines continue to plague the region, though in a diminutive form. Still, the once powerful security issue is losing its steam even in this region, and the prosperity agenda and the pocket-book issue are increasingly gaining momentum.

Fifthly, the important role of the mass media in elections is becoming increasingly apparent. The election of Yi Sun-chae the actor, Chong (Yi) Chu-il, the comedian and Kim Tong-kil, professor-turned well-known publicist, are cases in point.

Finally, this election has demonstrated, among other things, that the ruling party's political solicitations, which worked in previous elections, are becoming less effective and even counter-productive. The alleged absentee ballot irregularities in the military, the arrests of the four security agents from the Agency for National Security and Planning for disseminating personally damaging false information about the DP candidate in the Kangnam District in Seoul and other government activities favoring the ruling party candidates are some representative cases.

Overall, the March elections and the forthcoming presidential election are two of the most important political tests of the post-liberation South Korean democratization process. The coming presidential election will especially determine whether or not the democratic political process, including the peaceful transfer of power, will finally be institutionalized. From this standpoint, No's unswerving political democratic vision is urgently called for, and he should not participate in the vendetta game.

Viewers' Opinions of North TV Programs Polled

SK2304111192 Seoul YONHAP in English
0803 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] Seoul, April 23 (YONHAP)—The majority of South Koreans have changed their perception of North Korea after viewing domestic television programs on North Korea, a recent opinion poll showed.

The poll, conducted by Korea Gallup Co., indicated that 73.2 percent of the 1,500 people questioned replied that television programs on North Korea have prompted them to change their understanding of the North.

Of the total pollees, 46.2 percent said they learned North Korea was a worse place to live in than they thought earlier, while 27.0 percent said they came to know it was a better place than they assumed.

In a 1989 survey, 41.7 percent of pollees said the North was worse than they thought and 33.8 percent said it was a better place than they earlier assumed.

Korea Gallup took the poll through personal interviews across the country. The interviewed were aged 20 or older. The results of the survey were made public Thursday.

Both KBS- and MBC-television air selected North Korean television programs once a week under the titles "Window of South-North" and "Unification Observatory," respectively.

Of the pollees, 39.2 percent said they thought the selection of North Korean television programs used was not fair while 36.0 percent said it was fair.

Meanwhile, 54.8 percent of the total said there should be more television programs on North Korea than now and 32.6 percent said the present volume was adequate.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

15 More Soldiers To Join UN Troops in Cambodia

*BK2204125192 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English
0916 GMT 22 Apr 92*

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, April 22 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Malaysia will send 15 more soldiers for peacekeeping duty in Cambodia at the request of United Nations, Chief of Army Gen. Abdul Rahman Abdul Hamid said Wednesday.

He said the UN recently requested for the additional men, including six officers, for attachment with the Phnom Penh-based headquarters of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC).

UNTAC's military component comprised some 15,900 personnel.

Gen. Abdul Rahman said the men would be selected this week and flown to Cambodia early next month.

A military doctor would be among the officers to be selected for the latest batch. The rest of the officers would serve as staff officers and military observers at UNTAC Headquarters.

Gen. Abdul Rahman said Malaysian soldiers on duty in Cambodia had been well received by the local population.

Malaysia has an 850-man contingent deployed to the Battambang Province to oversee repatriation of refugees from camps in the Cambodia-Thai border.

Presently, three Malaysian staff officers are with the UNTAC HQ [Headquarters], while 10 other personnel are stationed throughout the country as observers.

UN troops will also be involved in the disarmament and cantonment of the warring factions after the repatriation exercise ends in June.

Gen. Abdul Rahman said so far about 5,000 refugees have been repatriated to temporary holding camps in the province before being phased back into the Cambodian society.

He said the number of refugees estimated to settle in Battambang, once the rice bowl of Cambodia, might reach 50,000.

Outgoing Chief Urges Military To Avoid Politics

*BK2204101192 Kuala Lumpur BERITA HARIAN
in Malay 10 Apr 92 p 15*

[By Zabidi Salleh]

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Thursday—In order to preserve the country's democratic system, members of the Malaysian Defense Forces should not get involved in politics, Defense Forces Chief General Tan Sri Hashim Mohamed Ali has said.

According to him, they should avoid getting involved as members of the security forces in any political activities since doing so could threaten the country's harmonious democratic system.

He said all members of the Malaysian Defense Forces should be neutral and not side with any political parties. They should instead fully support the government that rules the country.

"All members of the Malaysian Defense Forces should avoid getting involved in any political activities to ensure that the country's democratic system will continue forever and proceed safely.

"We should be neutral and not side with any political parties. We should instead fully support the ruling government," he said in a farewell parade at the Royal Malaysian Air Force base at Sungai Besi today.

Hashim will retire on 11 April after serving in the Malaysian Defense Forces for 38 years and nine months and as its chief for four years and six months.

Taking part in the parade were two Nuri helicopters flying the flags of the Malaysian Defense Forces and Malaysia respectively, three Allouette helicopters flying the flags of the Army, Navy, and Air Force respectively, and five Skyhawk A-4 aircraft in formation to give a salute.

Also present at the function were his successor Army Chief Gen. Tan Sri Yaacob Mohamed Zain, Navy Chief Vice Admiral Datuk Sri Mohamed Shariff Ishak, Air Force Chief Lieutenant General Datuk Sri Mohamed Yunus Tasi, and senior officers and other members of the Malaysian Defense Forces.

On regional relations, Hashim said countries in the region should avoid rivalries aimed at increasing military capabilities.

According to him, if the military capabilities of a country are stronger than those of other countries, this will displease other countries and probably lead to uneasiness.

He said all countries in the region should strengthen cooperation not only in the political, economic, and social fields, but also in the military field to maintain peace in the region.

"If a country has military capabilities surpassing those of other countries in the region, this will cause various negative reactions from other countries in the region."

"Eventually, such a situation may lead to undesirable things. To avoid this, all countries in the region should strengthen cooperation not only in the political, economic, and social fields, but also in the military field," he said.

Non-Indigeneous Citizens Urged To Enlist

*BK2204134892 Kuala Lumpur BERITA HARIAN
in Malay 10 Apr 92 p 15*

[Excerpt] Kuala Lumpur, Thursday—Non-indigeneous races, especially the qualified ones should join the security forces, especially the Malaysian Defense Forces to increase the participation of all races in the defense forces.

Defense Forces Chief General Tan Sri Hashim Mohamed Ali said that the races concerned should set aside personal interests and give priority to national interests by serving in the security forces.

He said that compared to the indigeneous races, there are very few non-indigenous citizens, especially the qualified ones in the defense forces.

"It is time for non-indigeneous races, especially the qualified ones to set aside personal interests to serve the country," he said in a farewell parade at the Royal Malaysian Air Force base at Sungai Besi today.

Eight hundred and seventy-nine members of the Malaysian Defense Forces from the three armed services—Army, Navy, and Air Force—consisting of 29 officers and 850 men took part in the parade. The parade was led by Lieutenant Colonel Baldev Singh from the Ranger Regiment. [passage omitted]

Singapore

Opposition Leader Loses Appeal on Libel Suit

*BK2204124592 Singapore THE SUNDAY TIMES
in English 19 Apr 92 p 16*

[Text] Workers' Party leader J.B. Jeyaretnam yesterday lost his appeal against a High Court judgment that he had defamed former Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew at an election rally in 1988.

The three-judge Court of Appeal rejected his contention that he was entitled to the defence of fair comment and should, in addition, be accorded the protection of qualified privilege.

The libel suit arose from remarks made by Mr. Jeyaretnam at an election rally in August 1988 about the circumstances in which former National Development Minister Teh Cheang Wan had committed suicide in 1986 while being investigated for corruption.

Mr. Lee successfully sued Mr. Jeyaretnam for libel on the grounds that the remarks insinuated that Mr. Lee was involved in the "unlawful taking away of a human life for a sinister purpose."

Mr. Jeyaretnam was ordered to pay \$260,000 in damages, costs and interest, and the total payment amounted to about \$700,000.

Mr. Jeyaretnam appealed against the decision two months ago.

Yesterday, Justice L.P. Thean, who delivered the judgment of the court, rejected the appeal on the grounds that the words spoken of were "undoubtedly defamatory" of Mr. Lee.

In the 71-page judgement, he said that Mr. Jeyaretnam's words had imputed "dishonourable and discreditable conduct" and disparaged Mr. Lee in his office as Prime Minister and tended to "bring him into public odium and contempt and lower him as such in the estimation of right-thinking people in Singapore."

Justice Thean said that Mr. Jeyaretnam could not avail himself of the defence of fair comment in the light of the court's finding that in the ordinary and natural meaning of the words complained of, the words were defamatory.

"An essential requirement to the success of the defence of fair comment is that the comment must be based on facts and those facts must be true."

But the facts Mr. Jeyaretnam relied upon were by themselves "not sufficient to form the basis on which a fair-minded person could honestly make a comment in the form of the words complained of," the court held.

On the question of qualified privilege, the appeals court held that although the Constitution guaranteed freedom of speech and expression to all citizens, such freedom was not absolute but was subject to certain restrictions such as the Defamation Act.

Under the law, all persons, including politicians, were not exempt from facing libel action for reckless attacks on the personal reputation of any individual.

The appeals court also held that the trial judge, Justice Lai Kew Chai, who had dealt previously with cases involving Mr. Jeyaretnam, was correct in deciding that he could still hear the case because no right-thinking person would consider him to be biased.

On the issue of damages, the court found that the trial judge was wrong in awarding interest of 6 percent from the date the writ was served.

He ordered that whatever money paid by Mr. Jeyaretnam as interest on the damages should be refunded.

But the court found that the quantum of damages itself could not be considered to be excessive in all the circumstances of the case.

The appeal was dismissed with costs.

Cambodia

U.S. Senate Delegation Continues MIA Work

Long Visalo Hosts Group

*BK2304080692 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon
Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT
23 Apr 92*

[Text] At 1430 on 20 April at the foreign minister's office, the delegation of the U.S. Senate Select Committee on POW/MIA Affairs led by Senators John Kerry and Bob Smith, chairman and vice chairman of the committee, accompanied by Senators Charles Grassley, Charles Robb, and Hank Brown, and some other members of the committee, and Mr. Charles Twining, U.S. special envoy in Cambodia, held a work session with the Cambodian Commission for Search of MIA Remains led by Long Visalo, vice chairman of the commission and deputy foreign minister.

After welcoming the U.S. Senate delegation, Long Visalo informed it of the past and present efforts to create favorable conditions for bilateral cooperation and activities in the search for the U.S. prisoners of war and soldiers missing in action. He also spoke on the difficulties and facilities in the work of the commission, its successes, and its hope for the future cooperation plan.

In his reply, Senator John Kerry highly valued the Cambodian side's efforts and cooperation in this matter, adding that the Cambodian side took the lead among the three Indochinese countries.

Group Meets National Security Minister

*BK2304064292 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon
Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT
23 Apr 92*

[Text] At 1600 on 20 April at the office of the Ministry of National Security, the visiting delegation of the Senate Committee on POW/MIA Affairs called on His Excellency Sin Song, minister of national security.

The minister expressed a warm welcome to the delegation and informed it of the State of Cambodia [SOC] Government's past, present, and future attention to the POW/MIA issue. He also informed the delegation of the situation regarding the implementation of the peace plan, particularly [words indistinct] democratic rights, stressing that the SOC would strictly abide by the peace plan despite all obstacles.

Senator John Kerry, head of the delegation and chairman of the U.S. Senate Committee on POW/MIA Affairs, highly valued the SOC's efforts in cooperating with the POW/MIA work and in implementing the peace agreement.

Role of SNC, UNTAC Discussed

*BK2304023692 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great
National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian
2330 GMT 22 Apr 92*

[Station "article:" "Clarification of the Definition of the Supreme National Council and the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia"]

[Text] The Paris accord on Cambodia defines the transitional period from the date of the accord's signing to the date when elections are held to select a new Cambodian National Assembly and Government. And the accord also stipulates that during the transition, the Supreme National Council [SNC] and the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC] are duty-bound to administer the state's internal and external affairs. This arrangement is made for the Cambodian authority, during the transitional period, to become neutral, providing the Cambodian people with the opportunity to organize free and just elections.

However, since the beginning of the transition on 23 October [1991] thus far, have the Vietnamese aggressors already handed over the transitional authority to the SNC and UNTAC? As for the Cambodian national government legally recognized by the United Nations, it has, since that date, halted its activities in and outside the country and delegated its role to the SNC and UNTAC. Nevertheless, the Vietnamese aggressors' authority installed since 1979 has continued to manage all affairs both in Phnom Penh and the provinces. It is doing whatever it can to further strengthen the authority of the Vietnamese aggressors. In addition, some foreign groups have even helped shore up the authority as well.

Is this the implementation of the accord or the breach of the accord in broad daylight? If so, how can a settlement to restore peace to Cambodia within its independence be achieved? Or is this aimed at protracting the war in the country? Anyway, this is the problem that the UNTAC and SNC should take into account. They have to do their utmost to make the transition proceed in a neutral atmosphere, allowing the Cambodia people to totally enjoy their rights to choose their destiny themselves through free and just elections.

Chea Sim Speech Opens 15th CPP Party Plenum

*BK2304093192 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon
Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT
23 Apr 92*

[Speech by Chea Sim, chairman of the Cambodian People's Party Central Committee, CPP CC, at the opening of the CPP CC 15th plenary session in Phnom Penh on the morning of 22 April—recorded]

[Text] My respects to the Presidium [words indistinct] and all beloved delegates. Today we are holding the 15th Plenum of the CPP [Cambodian People's Party] Central Committee at a time when our Cambodian people in and

outside the country and general world opinion are following with interest the development of the Cambodian situation and implementation of the 23 October Paris accord, which represents the only ray of hope for bringing peace and national reunification to Cambodia.

Our session constitutes a crucial political event at this new stage of history, outlining the new move made by our CPP to continue implementing the political program endorsed at the party's national extraordinary congress and the Paris accord for the supreme cause of our CPP, which, at all times and under all circumstances, binds itself to the fate of the country and people.

The situation in Cambodia since the existence of the Paris accord to date shows that the historic changes in the CPP's political line adopted at its extraordinary session in October 1991 is most correct and appropriate to the current situation in Cambodia and the prevailing trend. The changes have also, on a timely basis, responded to the people's aspirations and are becoming the basic [words indistinct] for execution of the Paris accord to bring about genuine peace for the Cambodian people.

Sincerely implementing the national reunification policy, the CPP, the State of Cambodia [SOC] Government, and our Cambodian people invited and accompanied His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk back to the motherland. They have also firmly supported him in his mission to achieve national reunification in his highest capacity as the chairman of the Supreme National Council [SNC] of Cambodia and solemnly recognized him as Cambodia's legitimate head of state, as in the period prior to 18 March 1970. And they have endorsed his candidacy in a future Cambodian presidential election as well. All these make the people—his children and grandchildren—feel warm, hopeful, and confident that the country's future will be glorious under his harmonious shade as they can see the truth of the policy of our CPP, which always follows the Samdech Euv [prince father] [words indistinct].

Lately, our cadres, employees, combatants, and people have, under CPP leadership, strived to overcome numerous difficulties and solve a number of major issues. For instance, with implementation of the Paris accord, we have, as the host party, continued our earnest cooperation with all the parties concerned to correctly execute every clause of the agreement, including assisting in establishing the SNC headquarters, arranging SNC meetings, welcoming the presence of the UN Advance Mission in Cambodia [UNAMIC] and the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC], allowing the setting up of offices of various conflicting parties in Phnom Penh, and participating in the process of repatriating Cambodian refugees from camps along the Cambodian-Thai border.

Although some parties continue to breach the accord (?by abusing) our patience to create social instability aimed at hindering the execution of the accord and at fallaciously accusing and putting the blame on our party,

they can never hide the reality. The party, which has breached the accord, has been openly denounced.

Our administrative system has been streamlined in keeping with the accord. Cambodia's Constitution has been amended and a number of laws and important documents relating to implementation of the liberal democratic multiparty regime rectified. Respect for human rights has been adopted by the National Assembly and put into application, creating a new administrative structure in Cambodian society in conformity with the country's new situation. Implementation of a market economy and the privatization policy have encouraged foreign firms and local companies to increase their investments. This constitutes a key factor importantly contributing to improving the economic situation by eliminating a number of major difficulties. Our party's land allotment policy and the exemption of farm land from tax for a period of 15 years have motivated the people to become actively involved in earning a living. And the flood calamity has been surmounted by the people's joint efforts and assistance from the government and international community.

With our drive, the educational, cultural, and health sectors have been increasingly promoted with assistance from the international community. As for our foreign policy, it has greatly improved: All kinds of embargoes have been lifted, over 30 countries have established relations with the SNC, and ties between Cambodia and countries throughout the world have been expanded. In particular, we are capable of maintaining good relations with our neighbors Vietnam, Laos, and Thailand, helping to create a peaceful environment and stability in Southeast Asia.

The CPP wishes to express profound thanks to the international community for its support and assistance, both moral and material, to enhancing the course of the accord's implementation. We wish to highly value the goodwill and just gesture, high sense of responsibility, compassion, and love for the Cambodian people of His Excellency [H.E.] UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus Ghali; Yasushi Akashi, special envoy of the UN secretary general; the forces of UNTAC; the five permanent members of the UN Security Council; and the cochairmen of the Paris conference. They have strived to carry out their missions to restore peace to Cambodia according to the accord's spirit. The SOC side—the administrator in place—pledges to continue promoting close cooperation with all forces, especially the SNC and UNTAC in implementing the accord correctly.

In sum, although the Cambodian situation is making progress, numerous obstacles remain on the way toward the shore of genuine peace. Further endeavor is needed to resolve them. However, to fulfill our great responsibility, we—the host party and the one [words indistinct]—are resolved to promote social stability in all sectors, including the political, military, security, public order, economic, and social sectors. This is the key factor for maintaining the normal process of implementing the

accord until general elections are held as planned. As such, it is requested that solidarity and unity be strengthened around the entire CPP, making it a core component for national solidarity forces in striving to achieve every political task entrusted by our party to further improve the development of the current situation.

The CPP wishes to extol our cadres, combatants, and people for having patiently faced the country's common hardship and understood shortcomings to which the party and government are currently striving to adjust. Propaganda exaggerating the economic and living hardships, instigation to create anarchy in society, and active execution of a demagogic policy with promises made by some political parties to the people are aimed only at expanding their influence in future elections. In fact, these activities serve not to solve problems, but only to make them more complicated. That being the case, only via the promotion of solidarity around the CPP, the steadfast following of the Samdech Euv, the resolute safeguarding of social gains achieved over the past 13 years, and determination to prevent a return of the disaster of the past can we rebuild our country toward rapid progress and prosperity.

With a high sense of responsibility, the 15th session of the CPP Central Committee should have the following important duties:

- [passage indistinct] to implement the resolution adopted by the plenum.
- Adopt a number of issues concerning the structure of the Central Committee; and
- Agree in principle to hold the party's national extraordinary congress in the future to solve a number of essential issues.

The congress, to be held for three days from 22 to 24 April 1992, will be fully capable of proceeding in accordance with the party's conditions and statutes.

In an atmosphere of merriment, I now declare this session of the congress open.

Overseas Cambodians 'Wish To Cooperate'

*BK2204101392 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon
Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT
22 Apr 92*

[“Message from members of the National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia to His Excellency Chea Sim, chairman of the Cambodian People's Party Central Committee; and His Excellency Hun Sen, chairman of the State of Cambodia's Council of Ministers;” dated 18 April—read by announcer]

[Text] Your Excellencies:

1. Considering that this is a fine opportunity in which the Cambodian nation and country will see the light of peace, all Cambodians should unite to rebuild the country;

2. Considering that the ideal and political path of His Royal Highness [HRH] Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state, is the only way to reconcile the nation for independence, freedom, democracy, and liberal economy, which we have been supporting and following; and

3. Considering the fact that the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] and the State of Cambodia's Government agree and have fully supported the prince's policy by restoring him as head of state in Cambodia, and carrying on the Sangkum Reas Niyum policy in relation to which he is the head and father of the nation;

We, members of the National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia [FUNCINPEC], who are royalists and have signed our names below, wish to cooperate with the CPP and the State of Cambodia's Government to build the country, nation, and motherland and to restore the national religion and the beloved Kingdom of Cambodia.

[Dated] Phnom Penh, 18 April 1992

[Signed] (Chuong Vantha), (Seng Kuy), FUNCINPEC members in the Federal Republic of Germany;

(Kol Chhok), (Seng Sovat), FUNCINPEC members in the Federal Republic of Austria;

(Tea Eav-ho), (Kang Ven), FUNCINPEC members in Belgium;

(Chea Saophoan), Princess Norodom (Dia), (Soksam Chanrithi), FUNCINPEC members in France;

(Pen Daret), (Um Lun), (Soy Song-huor), FUNCINPEC members in the Netherlands;

(Kang Sena), (Svay Sokun) alias (Meas Sokha), (Khuon Bona), FUNCINPEC members in Switzerland; and

(Khek Lerand), (Song Monisa), (Khek Vandi), (Pan Ratha), (Chea Sokhan), (Khek Sokha), (Pech Kim-eng), (Chun Hai), (Sok Sichan), (To Mok), and (Sek Sam-iet)

SRV, Phnom Penh Troops Attack Kandal Districts

*BK2204052592 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great
National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian
2330 GMT 21 Apr 92*

[Excerpt] Our radio has just received from our people in Khsach Kandal and Lvea Em Districts of Kandal Province a protest note against the Vietnamese aggressors and the Phnom Penh side, which have marshalled troops with artillery to launch offensives against them. The note reads:

The Vietnamese aggressors and the Phnom Penh side, with some 500 soldiers backed by artillery barrages, have launched offensives against the people in Khsach Kandal and Lvea Em Districts of Kandal Province since 3 April.

The raids, which continued until 13 April—the day of the Cambodian new year celebration—caused many deaths among the villagers and damage to their property and cattle.

This action constitutes a gross violation of the Paris 23 October accord. We request that the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia and the four Cambodian parties come to inspect and stop the violations committed by the Vietnamese aggressors and the Phnom Penh side without delay. [passage omitted]

Indonesia

Suharto Meets Australian Prime Minister Keating

BK2204112392 Jakarta ANTARA in English 1040 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] Jakarta, Apr 22 (OANA-ANTARA)—President Suharto stressed that Indonesia never has intention to disturb its neighbouring countries because its Constitution of 1945 clearly mentions that Indonesia wishes to create world peace and to eliminate colonialism.

The president made the Indonesian stand when holding a two-hour talk with Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating at the Merdeka Presidential Palace here on Wednesday, said Minister/State Secretary Murdiono when explaining to reporters the results of the meeting.

Murdiono said the two heads of state discussed various bilateral, regional, and international issues and also touched on the November 12 incident in Dili in 1991.

President Suharto stressed that Indonesia will never have the intention to disturb its neighbours, Murdiono said quoting the head of state as saying.

During the meeting, the president explained in detail the history of the Indonesian people's struggle, the national leadership, the colonialism it ever experienced and the 1945 Constitution.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Paul Keating explained that Australia is a heterogeneous nation which will in stages place itself as a part of Asia.

He said that a meeting between the Australian Government and the Asia-Pacific heads of state needed to be held to strengthen the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC).

With regard to the proposal, President Suharto said that he could understand that matter. But a good preparation should be made in order to achieve good results as desired by its members.

The president cited as an example ASEAN which was founded in 1967 but it was only nine years afterwards that it held its first summit in Bali (Indonesia).

When discussing bilateral issues, the two leaders shared the opinion that the two states could increase further their military cooperation.

But the military cooperation would not mean an establishment of a military pact, Murdiono said when explaining the talks of the two leaders.

Murdiono said the officials of the two countries also discussed preparations for an agreement on copyrights, investment guarantee, and cooperation on the prevention of crimes.

When asked on the Dili incident, Murdiono said that Keating praised the reports by the National Enquiry Commission (KPN) and President Suharto's decision to handle the matter.

After the talks, the two leaders witnessed the signing of three agreements signed by Foreign Affairs Minister Ali Alatas and Australian Ambassador to Indonesia Philip Flood.

The agreements concern extradition as an effort to eliminate crimes, avoidance of double taxation and cooperation in the fishery sector.

Murdiono said even though the agreement on extradition has been signed, there is no plan to extradite criminals from both countries in the near future.

Keating on Ties, Trade, Cooperation

BK2204143592 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 1200 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] Speaking at a news conference before Australian and local newsmen in Jakarta today, Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating said he decided to visit Indonesia because the Indonesian Government had created stability in the Asia-Pacific region and managed to keep all its islands united. He said his visit to Indonesia was not prompted by the East Timor issue and was not due to problems in enhancing economic cooperation in the region. It was mainly due to the success of the Indonesian Government in creating regional stability.

Prime Minister Paul Keating expressed his wish for deeper political, economic, and social relations with Indonesia.

In view of that, an investment agreement to broaden Australia's investments in Indonesia was sealed today. Australia would invest in gold and coal mining projects in Indonesia.

According to Prime Minister Keating, being neighbors, Australia and Indonesia should not be limited only to the broadening of their bilateral relationship, but should also cooperate in international forums, such as efforts to solve the Cambodian issue.

Discusses Defense Cooperation

BK2204173492 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 1500 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] The Australian Prime Minister John Keating has reiterated that Australia and Indonesia have basic interests in strategic stability and in preventing countries outside the region from creating conflict and tension.

Delivering his lecture titled "Our Common Interests" at a forum on Indonesia's foreign policy in Jakarta this afternoon, Prime Minister Keating discussed the possibility of broadening and strengthening bilateral ties between the armed forces and defense organizations of the two countries. According to Keating, this can be achieved by increasing the number of visits and high-level consultations, and conducting joint exercises, training, and other forms of exchanges.

Keating's lecture was moderated by Singgih, the head of the Board of Research and Development of the Department of Foreign Affairs. It was attended by Foreign Minister and Mrs. Ali Alatas, Australian Ambassador and Mrs. Philip Flood, Mrs. Anita Keating, political and economic experts, and various community leaders.

Satisfied With Current Cooperation

BK2304082492 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0700 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating has expressed his satisfaction over the fact that Indonesia and Australia have identical views on and a strong desire for cooperation on a macro scale. This is very important as any problems between the two countries will, thus, be simply considered minor matters. Prime Minister Keating conveyed his statement to Suharto during a farewell function at Merdeka Palace in Jakarta today. Disclosing the matter to newsmen, Minister and State Secretary Murdiono said that the Australian leader reiterated that Indonesia's New Order Government was very important for Southeast Asia and the Southwestern Pacific in particular. Indonesia's stability and development progress have contributed to stability in the two regions.

Prime Minister Paul Keating added that there was in fact a deep concern in Australia over developments in Indonesia in 1965 due to Indonesia's then confrontational attitude prior to a rebellion mounted by the 30 September Movement of the Indonesian Communist Party. The situation in Indonesia is totally different now. Prime Minister Keating said that many people forgot to notice that the situation had changed considerably over the past two decades.

Earlier, Minister and State Secretary Murdiono said that Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating's visit to Indonesia had strengthened mutual understanding and renewed the desire to enhance economic cooperation in the future. In addition, the visit has refreshed Indonesian-Australian relations.

Criticizes Portuguese 'Maneuvers'

BK2304022892 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0000 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating says his country has never approved of Portugal's past occupation of East Timor, the way that country abandoned East Timor, as well as its recent political maneuvers. He says Australia has always remembered how Portugal neglected its former colony. The international community's current attention to East Timor after its integration into Indonesia is a result of its unique and chaotic past history caused by Portuguese colonialism.

The Australian prime minister made these remarks at a forum on Indonesian foreign policy in Jakarta last night. Speaking at the forum attended by foreign diplomats, politicians, academicians, newspaper editors, and observers, Paul Keating noted that the Australian people's extraordinary attention to East Timor affairs does not mean that they are not interested in the welfare of other Indonesian people living in the country as a whole. He pointed out that the Indonesian Government's moves, including President Suharto's public remarks on the Dili incident and the 27 February announcement issued by the Indonesian army chief of staff [the sacking of army officers involved in the Dili incident] were a credible response to the said incident.

Dailies View Banquet Speech

BK2304085292 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0600 GMT 23 Apr 92

[From the press review]

[Text] SUARA KARYA believes it is reasonable to say that the Australian prime minister's current visit to Indonesia will restore and strengthen relations between the two countries. Bilateral ties must be restored because relations have been cordial since Indonesia's independence movement.

SUARA KARYA even points out that President Suharto also mentioned cordial relations in his speech at the banquet in honor of the Australian prime minister and his wife. During the occasion, the Indonesian head of state said each nation has a certain unquestionable level of dignity. SUARA KARYA notes that such dignity has been incorporated among the Indonesian people as a free nation.

Meanwhile, commenting on the same issue, PELITA says President Suharto, in his banquet speech, subtly hinted at the tendency of some countries to consciously or unconsciously interfere in our domestic affairs. Therefore, it is high time for Indonesia to reiterate its basic principles in dealing with members of the international community. PELITA believes that what President Suharto has said indeed represents the Indonesian people's feelings.

Laos

Reportage on Various Foreign Aid Projects

U.S. Gives Aid for Handicapped

*BK2204121892 Vientiane KPL in English 0906 GMT
22 Apr 92*

[Text] Vientiane, April 22 (KPL)—The handicapped rehabilitation centre in collaboration with the World Vision in Laos and the representative of the USAID under the U.S. State Department late last month made an assessment on the implementation of the handicapped rehabilitation project (the final phase) in Xieng Khouang and Houa Phan and Vientiane Provinces, which proved effective than anticipated [as received].

The project provided fund coming from the American public for the families of the handicapped to raise cattle and fish, built operation facilities for the Xieng Khouang provincial hospital, Mahosot Hospital and Military Hospital No. 103, and built artificial limb workshops.

The project came about following a memorandum signed in May 1990 between the Governments of the Lao PDR [People's Democratic Republic] and the United States of America, under which the U.S. Government provided a humanitarian aid of U.S. \$850,000 to Laos in the orthopaedic and handicapped rehabilitation project executed by the World Vision. World Vision's officials confirmed that more financial support will be given for the project, in particular the provision of equipment to all the constructed operation facilities.

It was reported that the handicapped rehabilitation centre also presented a number of medicines and clothes worth about 900,000 kips to the social welfare service of Houa Phan Province for handicapped children, orphans at various centres in the province.

Japan Gives 11.5 Million Yen

*BK2204134692 Vientiane KPL in English 0910 GMT
22 Apr 92*

[Text] Vientiane, April 22 (KPL)—The Government of Japan has presented spare parts for buses worth 11.5 million yen (Japanese currency) to Laos.

Japanese Ambassador to Laos Mr. Shigemi Ando handed over the aid to Vice Mayor of Vientiane Prefecture Dr. Siho Bannavong. The hand-over ceremony was also witnessed by, among others, Mr. Oudom Khatthigna, secretary of the Vientiane party committee.

The presentation of the spare parts is in furtherance of the bus improvement project in Vientiane Prefecture starting in 1988 with an assistance [as received] from Japan at a cost of more than 600 million yen to Laos.

Agriculture Ministry Issues Note on Bad Weather

*BK2204114892 Vientiane KPL in English 0858 GMT
22 Apr 92*

[Text] Vientiane, April 22 (KPL)—A note of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry dated April 16 warns people against possible bad weather which might affect crops and other properties.

The notice observes that based on past weather records, this year may see drought and floods again. Between April and the end of May, violent gales are expected in certain plain areas. Rains will start on time but will be averagely less in July during which drought may be prevalent. However, during August-September, floods may occur in some regions due to environmental damages within the country and the movement of tropical monsoon wind and typhoon influence.

In terms of prevention, Minister Sisavat Keobounphan called upon the public, particularly farmers to find ways to remedy possible losses. Farmers should have extra rice seeds for repeated sowing activities. Farmers may have to plant starchy crops to replace damaged rice crops should there be drought or floods.

Additionally, farmers should equip themselves with means to kill pest, small water pumps and fuel. They should look into the question of repairing, upgrading irrigation facilities wherever possible to lessen the effect of drought.

The public is also warned against possible hail storms in some areas between April and May.

Philippines

Aquino Dismisses Rumors, Urges Peaceful Elections

*HK2304103092 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company
DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 23 Apr 92*

[By Dick Sychongco]

[Text] President Corazon Aquino dismissed reports that rebel soldiers are again planning to launch another coup. In a news statement, the president said that early discovery of the coup plot is in itself the best proof that a coup will not happen. The president also said that she was assured by General Lisandro Abadia, Armed Forces of the Philippines chief of staff, that everything is under control. The president's statement follows reports of an impending coup.

One report even went as far as charging the administration of masterminding the coup to make it appear that the country needs a coup-buster [as heard] like administration candidate, former Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos.

At the same time, the president has asked all the presidential candidates to support the Commission on Elections' [Comelec] call for signing a manifesto condemning any military take-over or any such action that will

prevent holding the 11 May elections. Aquino also stressed that she supports the Comelec's suggestion and any step that will ensure a peaceful and orderly election. She said that she encourages all candidates and voters to support the Comelec's maneuver.

Prior to this call by the president, it was reported that four presidential candidates have already expressed their support for the Comelec's proposal. The poll body made the proposal following increasing reports of an impending coup before the 11 May elections.

Confident of Church's Neutrality

HK2204074892 *Quezon City MALAYA in English*
22 Apr 92 p 2

[By Chit Estella]

[Text] President Aquino yesterday expressed confidence the Catholic Church will not openly endorse any candidate and that support being given by various religious sects to certain candidates will not result in a religious conflict among the people.

The President also played down the apprehension that the elections might take a religious dimension following the recent moves taken by the Catholic Church and the Iglesia ni Cristo. [Church of Christ]

The Iglesia ni Cristo is reportedly supporting the candidacy of Eduardo Cojuangco Jr of the Nacionalista Party. But the Catholic Church, in a pastoral letter last Sunday [19 April], called on the people to reject those who profitted and wielded power during the martial law years.

The Catholic Church was understood to be refering to Cojuangco, Mrs Imelda Marcos, and even Fidel Ramos who served as Philippine Constabulary chief and armed forces chief during that time.

Expressing confidence the Church will not try to play a more prominent role in the elections, Mrs Aquino said: "Many Church officials, including Cardinal Sin himself, have been constant in their assurances that the Catholic Church will not endorse any candidate for the presidency."

"Thus, while particular Church leaders may have their individual preferences, I doubt whether this would degenerate into religious intolerance," she said.

The President also disputed observations that religion would be a factor in the people's choice of candidates. "I do not believe that religion will be an issue in the elections," she said.

Meanwhile, the National Council of Churches in the Philippines [NCCP] denied an alleged statement by Lakas-NUCD [nation's strength-national union of christian democrats] that the Protestant Church has endorsed Fidel V. Ramos in the May 11 elections.

"The NCCP has not endorsed, is not in a position to endorse, any candidate for any position in the coming elections," Feliciano V. Carino, NCCP general secretary, said.

He said the statement alleging an NCCP endorsement, if confirmed to have come from the Lakas-NUCD, "does not speak well of the credibility of the Lakas-NUCD's campaign reporting."

Carino warned against turning the elections into an "issue of religious controversy and conflict."

He said the elections must be based on the quality of candidates, their track record, and positions on issues that affect the whole country.

Sin Reiterates No Endorsement

HK2304101492 *Manila DZXL Radio Mindanao*
Network in Tagalog 0700 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin stressed he would not endorse any candidate in the 11 May election. This was supported by Monsignor Socrates Villegas, the acting secretary of the Manila Roman archbishop, who said Sin would not campaign for any candidate. Villegas added that Sin is providing other worthy candidates the same moral support he has been giving to Mitra of the Struggle of Filipino Democrats. Earlier, Sin had urged all the candidates to use up all legal and moral measures to prove to the nation they are worthy of the positions they are seeking. Sin added that he would leave it to the people to decide who to vote for. He stressed that he would not be a blocking factor to any candidate whom the people want to vote for, particularly the Catholics.

EC Appeals To Respect Election Results

HK2304101392 *Manila DZXL Radio Mindanao*
Network in Tagalog 0700 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] The European Parliament has appealed to the various Philippine political parties to respect the result of the political exercises due to be held in May. This means that the European Community is closely watching political developments in the country. The Europeans are concerned that if the killing incidents, which have been reported as early as several weeks before the election, escalate, they may derail the scheduled democratic exercise. If a conflict occurs in the country after the election, it may create a negative effect, particularly on the economy, because many foreign investors may leave, while those who are still planning to invest in the country may possibly desert their plans.

Reportage on Support for Presidential Candidates

Party Faction Drops Salonga

HK2304040792 *Manila THE CHRONICLE in English*
23 Apr 92 p 6

[By Johanna Son]

[Text] A split surfaced yesterday in the ranks of the PDP-Laban [Filipino Democratic Party-Nation's Strength] party, when a faction led by its president junked Sen. Jovito Salonga as standard bearer and announced support for a Ramos-Pimentel ticket.

The Partide ng Demokratikong Pilipino-Laban [Filipino Democratic Party] formally coalesced with the Liberal Party in January, proclaiming LP [Liberal Party] president Salonga as presidential candidate and PDP Chairman Sen. Aquilino Pimentel as his running mate.

But while the entire PDP-Laban stands behind Pimentel for vice president, PDP-Laban President Juanito Ferrer claimed yesterday that "majority of the general membership of the party was backing Ramos [no end quote as published]."

At a press conference, Ferrer said, "I found out that it is their intention to campaign for Eddie Ramos."

Ferrer's statement brought to the fore the de facto junking of Salonga by some PDP-Laban local bets, and came as a blow to the Salonga-Pimentel tandem less than three weeks before the May 11 polls.

Pimentel warned Ferrer of expulsion and said he had already "separated" himself from the party.

"The party has certain rules. And anyone who does not follow the party decision (to support a Salonga-Pimentel team) can no longer consider himself a member in good standing," he said.

However, reelectionist Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay of the PDP-Laban has been campaigning only for Pimentel while reelectionist Paranaque Mayor Walfrido Ferrer, Ferrer's brother, has been pushing a Ramos-Pimentel ticket.

Some PDP-Laban bets in Mindanao are supporting Pimentel but not Salonga.

Both Ferrer and party Secretary General Augusto Sanchez, (who deplored Ferrer's remarks as a "Ramos ploy") made statements in the PDP-Laban's name yesterday.

Sanchez said Ferrer's statement was "his sole personal decision (and) not the PDP-Laban's," adding that the coalition with LP had been confirmed by the party's executive committee and national council.

He also dismissed Ferrer's remarks as part of squid tactics [as published] coming from naughty military minds." [no opening quote as published] Sanchez was referring to Ferrer's being, like Ramos, a former military man, one reason he said he was backing Ramos.

Besides, Ferrer said his family, active in Paranaque, had its roots in Ramos' native Pangasinan.

Ferrer's group may also support a mixed senatorial ticket, including Lakas candidates and former members of President Aquino's Cabinet.

Ferrer's statements reflected a difference in opinion between more moderate PDP members and the more progressive ones supportive of the LP.

Ferrer's allies have lamented the loss of staunch PDP Laban candidates who defected to other camps after Pimentel teamed up with Salonga.

They add that the slim chances of a Salonga victory might end Pimentel's career and the PDP-Laban's future.

PDP-Laban Vice Chairman Sen. Vicente Paterno confirmed he had been inclined to back a Ramos, Pimentel or Pimentel-Ramos ticket instead of a Salonga-Pimentel tandem, saying it would have been "a winning combination and thus very beneficial for our party."

Ferrer had led a panel negotiating an alliance with Ramos, which President Aquino herself endorsed until Pimentel announced he would ally with Salonga.

Paterno, in a letter to Ferrer on April 21, recalled that the Salonga-Pimentel decision came without consulting him.

He reiterated, though, that he would keep a promise not to campaign for anybody for the May 11 elections.

Detained Communist 'Prefers' Salonga

*HK2304031992 Manila PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY
in English 23 Apr 92 p 4*

[By Madelynne Dominguez]

[Text] Former journalist-turned National Democratic Front (NDF) leader Satur Ocampo yesterday said he prefers former Senate President Jovito Salonga over the other candidates in the ongoing presidential derby.

In an interview at the Makati Regional Trial Court where he attended the hearing for bail on the case filed against him on illegal possession of firearms and ammunitions, Ocampo also belied military reports that communists may "sow terror" and disrupt the May 11 elections.

"The National Democratic Front is encouraged to express their individual preference to support candidates who are in favor of the people and those who have good chances of winning," Ocampo said.

He commented that among the presidential aspirants, Salonga is the only one with a "very clear position" on peace, human rights and the nuclear power plant.

Aside from Salonga, Satur also said he supports the senatorial candidacy of Alberto Romulo, Wigberto Tanada and Nemesio Prudente.

Ocampo branded as "black propaganda" the news released by police authorities that communists plan to sow terror in the coming elections and liquidate the opponents of those candidates whom they support in the local level. "It is against our principles to sell our services," he said.

Ocampo stressed that the NDF will continue their peace negotiations with the government once a new president is put into power since President Aquino had already closed the book on the rebels' peace negotiations with this administration.

MNLF Says No Support for Laurel

*HK2304063092 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan
in Tagalog 0400 GMT 23 Apr 92*

[Text] The separatist Moro National Liberation Front [MNLF] has announced that it will not lay down its arms even if Nacionalista Party presidential candidate, Salvador Laurel, wins in the coming election. This clarification was made by MNLF spokesman (Sharis Izayi-Jali) following a statement made by Laurel in Davao. Laurel claimed that the MNLF was prepared to surrender in the event of his electoral victory. (Izayi-Jali) said that only an acceptable political formula would solve the ongoing problems in the south.

Election Chief on Poll Postponement in 4 Regions

*HK2204125492 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan
in Tagalog 1000 GMT 22 Apr 92*

[Text] Election in four regions of the country may be postponed. This was learned from Commission on Elections [Comelec] chairman Christian Monsod following a conference between Comelec officials, the Defense Department and the Department of Interior and Local Government [DILG] in Camp Crame. Josette Olivera reports:

[Begin recording] The conference was attended by Defense Secretary Renato de Villa, DILG Secretary Cesar Sarino; General Lisandro Abadia, the Armed Forces chief of staff; General Cesar Nazareno, Philippine National Police director; Comelec Commissioners Haydee Yorac and Remedios Fernando. Monsod said he will summon all the local officials in the five to six provinces within the four regions where election-related violence continues to escalate. On the watch list are Maguindanao and Lanao del Sur [Region 12], Tawi-Tawi and Sulu [Region 9], Masbate [Region 5] and Kalinga-Apayao [Region 2]. Monsod said that in the absence of a reasonable agreement reached after their talks with the local officials, elections in those areas will not be held. [end recording]

Visa Rules Eased for Expatriate Firm Officials

*HK2304034592 Manila MANILA BULLETIN
in English 23 Apr 92 pp 1-7*

[Text] Foreign nationals employed by firms registered with the Board of Investments (BOI) may now obtain their visas within 20 working days.

The move is part of the government efforts to attract more foreign investments and advanced technology by expediting employment of foreign nationals through simpler procedures and regulations.

Easing of visa rules is a joint effort of the BOI, Department of Justice [DOJ] and Foreign Affairs [DFA], Bureau of Immigration [BI], and National Intelligence Coordinating Agency (NICA).

The five government agencies have agreed to process applications by BOI-registered firms to employ foreign nationals holding 47 (a)(2) visas for a maximum of five days each.

Processing time for visa applications has been reduced to 20 working days from the previous 60 days.

The revision of existing rules and procedures in issuing visas and admission and stay of aliens will enable foreign nationals to obtain visas or change admission status classification with ease and speed.

In a memorandum of agreement, BOI, DOJ, DFA, BI and NICA have agreed that:

- The BOI will adopt the Department of Justice application form of employment of foreign nationals as the common form for both agencies;
- The application shall be filed with the One-Stop Action Center at BOI;
- The BOI shall receive in behalf of the DOJ the filing fee for the application form;
- The application shall be evaluated by the DOJ and NICA within five working days receipt, and upon approval, endorsed to DOJ, which will process the application within five working days.

Manila Suspends Deployment of Workers to Libya

*HK2304101192 Manila DZXL Radio Mindanao
Network in Tagalog 0700 GMT 23 Apr 92*

[Text] The Philippine Overseas and Employment Administration [POEA] has stated that the government would temporarily suspend the deployment of Filipino workers to Libya while the UN implements a trade and arms embargo against that country. According to the POEA, it will particularly prevent Filipinos, who still hold contracts in Libya but are on vacation in the Philippines, to return to that country. POEA Officer in Charge Manuel Ymson said the move is to prevent unpleasant incidents, like a report stating that 20 Filipinos returning to Libya have been stranded in Frankfurt, Germany. However, Ymson asserted that the 20 stranded Filipinos have already been given plane tickets by their employers.

Thailand

Butrus Ghali Praises Thai Role in Cambodia

BK2204061592 Bangkok TNA in English 0306 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] Bangkok, April 22 (OANA-TNA)—The visiting UN secretary general, Butrus Butrus Ghali Tuesday thanked Thailand for its great contribution to the Cambodian peace process.

Mr. Butrus Ghali expressed the thanks during a discussion with Thai caretaker Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun at the Government House.

The UN secretary general also stressed Thailand's role in the international fight against narcotics trafficking. He added Thailand's role in the fight will have a strong bearing on the final outcome.

Prime Minister Anan, in his speech given at the luncheon party held in honour of Mr. Butrus Ghali, called on the United Nations to give smaller countries an opportunity for greater participation in determining its future direction and agenda in response to challenges arising from an emerging new world order.

After the luncheon, Prime Minister Anan escorted Mr. Butrus Ghali to attend an audience with King Phumiphon Adunyadet of Thailand at the Chitlada Palace.

The UN secretary general left Thailand for India on Tuesday night.

Suchinda Appoints Economic Advisers

BK2204144092 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1230 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] The prime minister has appointed a ten-man team of economic advisers with Wiraphong Ramangkun, former deputy finance minister, as chairman of the team. Other members are: Surakiat Sathianthai, Chaiwat Wibunsawat, Narongchai Akkharaserani, Thawatchai Yongkittikun, Sathaphon Kawitanon, Sansoen Wongcha-um, Somchai Krusuansombat, Seri Chintanaseri, and Piyasawat Amaranan. Their office will be at Phitsanulok House.

Army Chief Comments on Anti-Suchinda Rally

BK2204070592 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0530 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] Speaking to newsmen at the Army Auditorium this morning about the rally organized by the opposition parties to demand the resignation of Prime Minister General Suchinda Khraprayun, Army Commander Gen. Itsaraphong Nunphakdi said the whole thing is political and attention is being given to the matter. Personally, he is confident that the people in general are watching whether activities carried out by each political party are proper. He said the prime minister made a sacrifice in

accepting the task of administering the country in accordance with the democratic process and the constitution. The majority of the people have faith and confidence in the prime minister to administer the country. Gen. Itsaraphong said the prime minister should be given the opportunity to run the country before any useful criticism is made. In this way, the country's development will be ensured.

Gen. Itsaraphong said the supreme commander explained yesterday that the military is a component of the administration, adding that the Army is ready to support the government which does the right things in the interests of the country, the throne, and the people at large.

Radio Warns Against Protests

BK2204141992 Bangkok First Army Division Radio in Thai 2300 GMT 20 Apr 92

["Sayamanusati" feature]

[Text] Dear listeners, an academic has said that as democracy develops, the time when it is most vulnerable is when there is a lack of systematic movement, in the social and political spheres, to correctly and effectively lead people in political ideology. Yes, political leaders have an important role to play in keeping the masses informed about political ideology in a democratic monarchy such as ours. They should instill the right political values and beliefs in the people by carrying out their activities within a democratic framework. A society is governed by a common law aimed at insuring peace for all members. Every member in a democratic society must abide by rules and regulations in order to prevent problems or conflicts.

Dear listeners, the Constitution, which is the supreme law of the country, has created an opportunity for any trustworthy and capable person to be named prime minister even if he is not an elected representative. This is democratic because he must be chosen by parties that have the mandate of the people, parties which control a majority in parliament. The royal command appointing General Suchinda Khraprayun as prime minister reads: General Suchinda Khraprayun is the most suitable person to hold the post of prime minister. He was appointed prime minister by virtue of Article 184 [as heard], paragraph one of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand, effective 7 April. The prime minister stated in an interview that his main task is to improve the living conditions of farmers, who constitute a majority of Thailand's population.

Dear listeners, the problems of farmers will be tackled urgently. They include the problems of rubber and coffee prices, and difficulties in marketing farm products. There is the problem of drought now severely affecting the people upcountry. The prime minister has instructed concerned agencies to carry out relief operations immediately. Meanwhile, the communist insurgency has re-emerged in the south, prompting the 4th Army Region commander to pledge drastic action to completely root

out all terrorists resorting to illegal activities that obstruct national development and threaten peace and security in southern provinces. There are so many things to do in order to solve problems for the people. There are many problems awaiting the politicians, who have been entrusted by the electorate with tackling these problems and bringing happiness and prosperity to the country and people. Politicians should mobilize all resources and try to solve those problems in keeping with the pledges they gave their people.

Many have expressed concerns and worries about the political situation at present. According to them, politicians who play games outside parliament are causing confusion among the people concerning ideology and democracy because, in the eyes of the people, everything had been proceeding according to the political rules written in the Constitution. We should help each other solve national problems. The people are watching the process of democracy being implemented properly through the parliament, and it should not be a game played outside the parliament with no limits and no respect for political rules and regulations. This is not a democratic system, but a state of anarchy and lawlessness, a primitive society.

Dear listeners, a former politician said there should be compromises in a democracy. The choice of a suitable person as prime minister is allowed under the Constitution. Any opposition to this should be channelled through the parliament in a bid to amend the Constitution, and not by organizing mobs aimed at creating disturbances. A newspaper columnist has remarked that disturbances created inside or outside the parliament by opposition parties do not contribute to the development of democracy, but only tend to bore people. And such things are not good for the country's economic stability. The endless fight against a neutral prime minister is being seen as a personal vendetta by those who could not win the premiership.

We have the parliament now, and the government and opposition blocs have been established. The honorable members of parliament should make the fullest use of parliament so the people will have a positive opinion of their representatives. The people want to see members of parliament with quality, with moral standards and ethics, members of parliament who behave properly and whose activities are worthy of their high political positions.

Dear listeners, while certain groups of people are organizing activities portraying our society negatively in the eyes of foreigners, those who have wisdom are questioning the role of our political leaders and their understanding of democracy. The people are wondering if those people really understand the spirit of the Constitution governing the country, or whether they just lack moral virtue. Prime Minister Gen. Suchinda Khraprayun said to parliamentarians when he met them on 16 April: "When I agreed to be prime minister, I realized the impact this would have on me. But I am ready to face all kinds of repercussions patiently under the due process

of democracy." He also said he holds it as his objective to work for the well-being of the majority, and it is his personal aspiration to work for the poor who are deprived of opportunities in our country.

The prime minister has set several targets for his goal of achieving national stability, including rural development, protection of natural resources and the environment, decentralization of power, promotion of a free economic system, and so on. All this will be in the government policy statement to be announced to the parliament under the constitutional process. Dear listeners, we should be concerned with national stability and the future of our country. We shall see who those lacking conscience and responsibility for peace and happiness in the country are, who those who do not respect the rule of law are. This is very important. We must not become their tools.

Suchinda in 'Race Against Time' for Legitimacy

BK2304010992 Bangkok THE NATION in English
23 Apr 92 p A10

[Editorial: "Odds Are Against Suchinda in His Race Against Time"]

[Text] Ex-army chief Gen Suchinda Khraprayun's questionable rise to the premiership is now a fait accompli. On Tuesday his Cabinet was sworn in. Yesterday he held the first meeting of his ministers at Government House, telling them to have confidence in him.

But from now on Suchinda is in a race against time. Either he shows quickly that he can lead an effective, honest government administration, or the Opposition clamouring for his resignation will escalate its confrontation with him to the exploding point. The odds are clearly against Suchinda.

As Suchinda leaves for a tour of the drought-stricken provinces in the Northeast today, Chalot Worachart's hunger strike to protest the Suchinda premiership enters its 15th day. More than 30 others have joined Chalot in fasting in front of Parliament. Suchinda maintains that Chalot's protest will not sway him from his "mission" to serve the country. He will not negotiate with Chalot, nor will he try to save Chalot's life by personally asking him to give up the fast.

Should Chalot die—and doctors warn it could happen any time—his unnecessary death will, more than anything else, fuel resentment at Suchinda and the military leaders engineering Suchinda's rise to head the new coalition government. More political trouble will follow and, heaven forbid, either a coup or a bloody popular uprising could take place. In either case there's no telling who could emerge the winner, but the inevitable loser would be our nation as a whole.

As prime minister, Suchinda is directly responsible for preventing coups and violence. In his first press conference at Government House yesterday he promised to do just that.

Suchinda should know that this is a promise he must keep, unlike his earlier promise not to accept the premiership which he discarded at his convenience. For this time the future of Thailand and the well-being of the Thai people are directly at stake, not just his credibility, which was shattered when he took over the premiership earlier this month.

Inside the armed forces only two men have enough clout to pull off a successful coup: army chief Gen Itsaraphong Nunphakdi and his younger cousin Lt Gen Chainarong Nunphakdi, who was just promoted commander of the powerful First Army Region in charge of Bangkok and the Central Region. As long as Gen Itsaraphong's support to Suchinda remains at "2,000 per cent", as he said it would be when Suchinda accepted the royal appointment to the premiership on April 7, there can be no successful coup against Suchinda—who incidentally is married to Gen Itsaraphong's younger sister, Khunying Wann.

Suchinda and Gen Itsaraphong have managed to put Class 5, the officers who graduated with them from Chulachomklao Royal Military Academy in 1958, in near-complete control of the top army hierarchy for several years to come. At the army division-level, virtually all the key combat forces are commanded by officers from Class 11, led by Lt Gen Chainarong, and Class 12 led by Lt Gen Samphao Chusi, who heads the Army Air Defence Command. These two upstart generals were instrumental in leading their troops to back Suchinda and Gen Itsaraphong in the coup on Feb 23, 1991.

Moreover, air force chief ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Kaset Rotchananin and navy chief Adm Wichet Karunyawarit as well as several top ranking officers in these two branches are allies of Class 5. Together they form the famous "0143" group of cohorts graduating from their respective military academies in 1958.

At present the "0143" group controls the armed forces and the police and it is backing Suchinda. The only conceivable reason for a coup by this group is to free Suchinda from being held hostage by politicians in the five government parties, just like in the coup of November 1971 when Field Marshal Thanom Kittikhachon connived with his deputy premier and army chief, Field Marshal Praphat Charusathian, to dissolve the elected lower house when government MPs became too unruly.

However, Suchinda need not resort to such an extreme solution when facing a similar problem. He has the constitutional power to dissolve the House of Representatives and call a new general election whenever he and his military backers want. In fact this power is part of Suchinda's leverage in dealing with political leaders inside the coalition backing him. These politicians "invested" a great deal in the last election; none of them

would want to return to the campaign trail before recouping their investment by wielding power in ministerial offices first.

Suchinda's close ties with the military puts him in a good position to stop provocations from some restless military circles, thus averting violence. Whatever the opposition leaders and their allies do outside Parliament will not lead to violence if Suchinda and the military show political tolerance and understanding about the democratic rights of their critics.

Some middle-level army officers and their friends in the bureaucracy have censored TV and radio news and harassed Chalot and his supporters in an obvious effort to please their "bosses". It's not enough for Suchinda to merely deny any knowledge of these unauthorized activities; he must stop them right now because more and more people are fed up with trampling on their democratic rights.

If Suchinda fails to improve the situation and the confrontation escalates, he must be held responsible. When things get out of control his resignation may be too late to stop either a coup or a popular uprising.

Vietnam

Radio Reports Arrival of Senator John Kerry

*BK2204130692 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English
1000 GMT 22 Apr 92*

[Text] A group of American senators led by Senator John Kerry arrived in Hanoi Tuesday to discuss with the Vietnamese side the MIA issue. Earlier the delegation visited Cambodia for the same purpose.

Senator John Kerry praised the Cambodian Government for its tremendous help in searching for the remains of US servicemen. He said: Now the search is at a new threshold and the three Indochinese countries become more open.

The United States has started an ever greater effort to search for over 2,000 Americans still listed as missing in action in the Indochina war.

Do Muoi Vows MIA Cooperation

*BK2204153992 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network
in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 22 Apr 92*

[Text] A delegation of the U.S. Senate special committee for missing Americans, which was led by committee chairman John Kerry, visited Vietnam from 21 to 24 April. Accompanying him were Senator Bob Smith, deputy chief of the committee; Senators Charles Grassley, Charles Robb, Hank Brown, and other members of the delegation.

On 22 April the delegation was received by General Secretary Do Muoi, together with Foreign Minister

Nguyen Manh Cam. During the reception, General Secretary Do Muoi asserted Vietnam's consistent policy of considering the MIA issue purely humanitarian. In this spirit Vietnam has cooperated, is cooperating, and will cooperate with the United States to solve the issue. Vietnam will implement the accords recently concluded between the two governments and expects both sides will positively cooperate with each other to settle the MIA issue in 1992.

The general secretary stressed that both sides should strive to accelerate the normalization of bilateral Vietnam-U.S. relations in the interests of the peoples of both countries, and for the sake of peace, stability, and development in the region and the world over.

The delegation of U.S. senators expressed its sincere thanks to the general secretary for his hospitality and highly appreciated the cooperation of the Vietnamese Government and people in solving the MIA issue, and expected that the Vietnamese side would continually cooperate in solving the issue as soon as possible.

During its stay in Vietnam, the delegation was received by Defense Minister Doan Khue. It also held talks with Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam and worked with Minister Phan Hien, chairman of the Vietnam-U.S. Association, and Interior Vice Minister Le Minh Huong.

On the afternoon of 22 April, the delegation concluded its work program in Hanoi and left to visit Ho Chi Minh City and some other southern provinces.

Normal Relations Could Come 'Quickly'

*BK2304062392 Hanoi VNA in English 0604 GMT
23 Apr 92*

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 23—Senator John F. Kerry on Wednesday said he was "absolutely convinced that if this (POW/MIA) issue is resolved we will have normalisation immediately, very quickly."

He told reporters in Hanoi after his meeting with CPV [Communist Party of Vietnam] General Secretary Do Muoi on April 22 that the only thing that was blocking normalisation was the feeling of some people in America that this issue must be resolved first.

The Massachusetts senator, who was leading a five-man delegation of the Senate Select Committee on POW/MIA, was asked to tell what the U.S. Government had done regarding false reports on the issue. He said: "I'm glad you're asking that. We take very seriously any fraud on this issue. Our government is currently investigating the incidence of the fake photographs. We have personally forwarded to the Justice Department information about fraud. Senator Smith and I wrote a letter to the attorney general asking for prosecution full application of law, and we will continue to expose any fraud that exists on this. People should know and should take heed that they should not be involved in falsely putting forward information or in producing phony remains

because we intend to be very strict on this issue. The committee is currently investigating all these aspects of fraud on this issue."

On U.S. response to Vietnam's humanitarian needs, Senator Kerry admitted "occasional" slowness. He said:

"I think that our government has occasionally been slow to provide some assistance, but we don't make those decisions. We're in the Senate, not the executive. We push the executive, and some of us would like to see more happening. Secretary Solomon recently provided some additional assistance, and I think that was a sign of good faith in order to say thank-you for the things that Vietnam was also doing on MIA/POW."

"I think we're on a good road now. I think much more can begin to happen and everything that Vietnam does to assist in opening the military records to provide the answers to our questions will only result in increased assistance, increased relationship."

Malaysian Ministers Holds Talks in Hanoi 21 Apr

*BK2204062992 Hanoi VNA in English 0619 GMT
22 Apr 92*

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 22—Vietnamese ministers of energy, agriculture, trade, communications and posts met here yesterday with their Malaysian counterparts to discuss possibilities of promoting their bilateral cooperation. The meetings were arranged in the framework of official visit to Vietnam by Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed and his wife. In the morning of the same day, Mayor of Hanoi Le At Hoi received five state governors of Malaysia, members of the visiting Malaysian delegation. He briefed his guests on the achievements gained by the Hanoians in national construction and economic development.

ASEAN Determined To Establish EAEC

*BK2204173092 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia
Network in Malay 1430 GMT 22 Apr 92*

[Text] Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed says ASEAN is determined to make the East Asian Economic Caucus [EAEC] a success by whatever means possible. The prime minister said that efforts to establish the EAEC would continue although the United States disagrees with the idea. He said this in reply to a question posed by a Vietnamese businessman during a forum on trade and investment opportunities organized by the Ho Chi Minh City People's Committee in the city. Dr. Mahathir, who is leading a Malaysian delegation consisting of 200 officials and businessmen for a five-day visit to Vietnam, reiterated that the EAEC is not a political group. The EAEC is simply a forum to enable member countries to voice their common views in international trade talks.

Vo Tran Chi Returns from DPRK

*BK2204062392 Hanoi VNA in English 0613 GMT
22 Apr 92*

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 21—A government and party delegation of Vietnam led by Vo Tran Chi, Politburo member of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, returned to Ho Chi Minh from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) after attending the celebrations of the 80th birthday of President Kim Il-song.

While there, the delegation visited some places of historic interest, and some economic and social welfare establishments. On April 16, Kang Hui-won, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the Workers Party of Korea and Vice Premier of the DPRK, called on Vo Tran Chi and his party and gave a reception in their honour.

Lenin's Birthday Commemorated

*BK2204165992 Hanoi VNA in English 1500 GMT
22 Apr 92*

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 22—Representatives of the Hanoi Party Committee, People's Committee, and Fatherland Front Committee, and the Vietnam-USSR Association Executive Committee today paid a floral tribute at the statue of Lenin in the city centre to commemorate his 122d birthday.

Talks and seminars about Lenin were held in many provinces and cities on this occasion.

NHAN DAN Marks Birthday

*BK2204063592 Hanoi VNA in English 0623 GMT
22 Apr 92*

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 22—The legacies of Leninism, part of mankind's legacies and an organic part of Marxism-Leninism will together with other noble values live for ever says NHAN DAN in an article today marking V.I. Lenin's 122nd birthday. The paper says: "The Vietnamese people will forever respect Lenin and be grateful to him just as to Marx and Engels. Thanks to the success of the Russian revolution the Vietnamese people found out the way to liberation. The successes of our nation stemmed from the creative application of Marxism-Leninism and the development of our national traditions. The most outstanding son of Vietnam—Ho Chi Minh—harmoniously combined the cause of national liberation with that of social and human liberation, combined the workers movement with the patriotic movement, upheld the spirit of independence, sovereignty, and creativeness and based himself on the practical situation of the country to correctly solve the problems of the country, thus taking the revolution to glorious victory.

"The current renovation undertaken by the Vietnamese party and state is another illustration of the spirit of independent and sovereign thinking and creative application of Lenin's instructions. In the same spirit, we are confident that we can find correct solutions to all newly arising problems."

